66

生存 LiFE 1

原作 福本伸行 × 作画 かわぐちかいじ

講談社

Nobuyuki Fukumoto × Kaiji Kawaguchi

LiFE 1

Takeda is diagnosed with cancer and feels that he has nothing to live for. Hopeless, he decides to end his life. But when he is about to hang himself, the phone rings: the police have just found the corpse of his daughter, Sumire, who disappeared more than 15 years ago.

Under Japanese law, the statute of limitations for murder only lasts 15 years. Takeda has only six months left: six months to live, six months to find his daughter's killer and deliver him to the authorities.

After 15 years of silence and obscurity, the family ties are reborn...

ILLUSTRATIONS: SANJI KAWAMURA × MANGA ARTIST

原作 福本伸行 × 作画 かわぐちかいじ

生存 LIFE 1

ART Nobuyuki Fukumoto × Kaiji Kawaguchi

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Nobuyuki Fukumoto × Kaiji Kawaguchi

LIFE 1

Translation
BORIS
Proofreading
CHOJIKI
Scans & Editing
NOMAD SOUL

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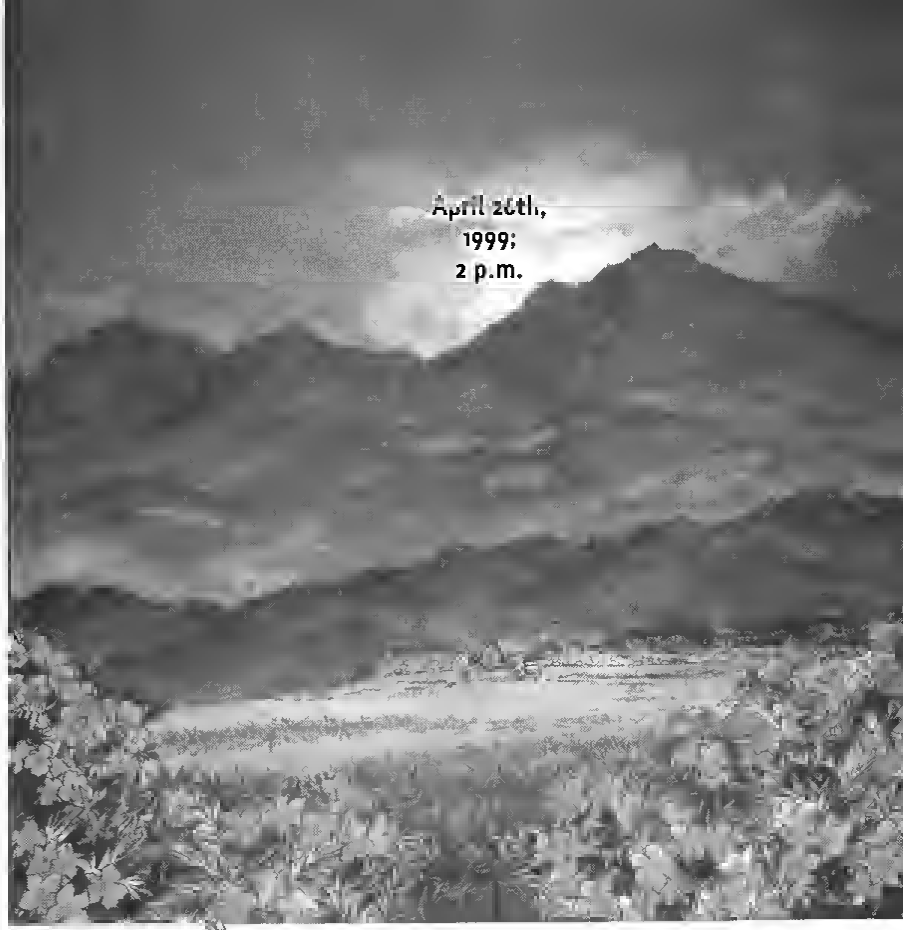
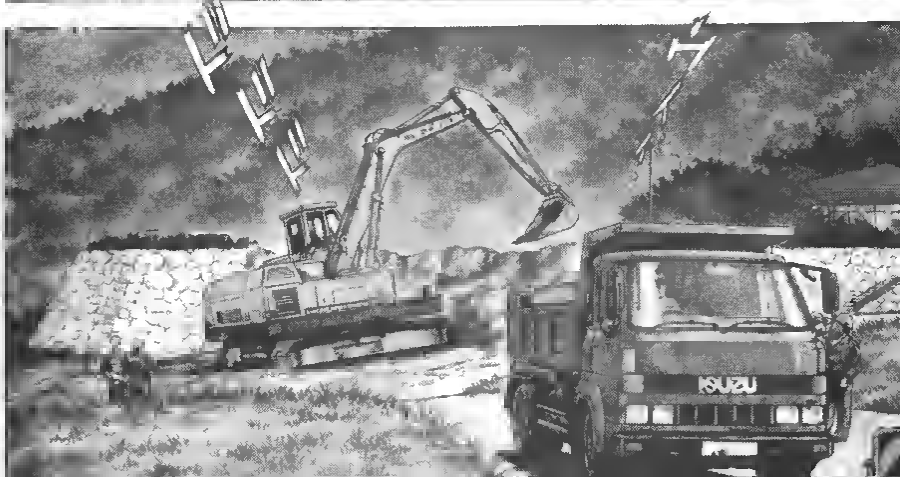

April 20th,
1999;
2 p.m.


ドドドド
ゥゥ
ISUZU

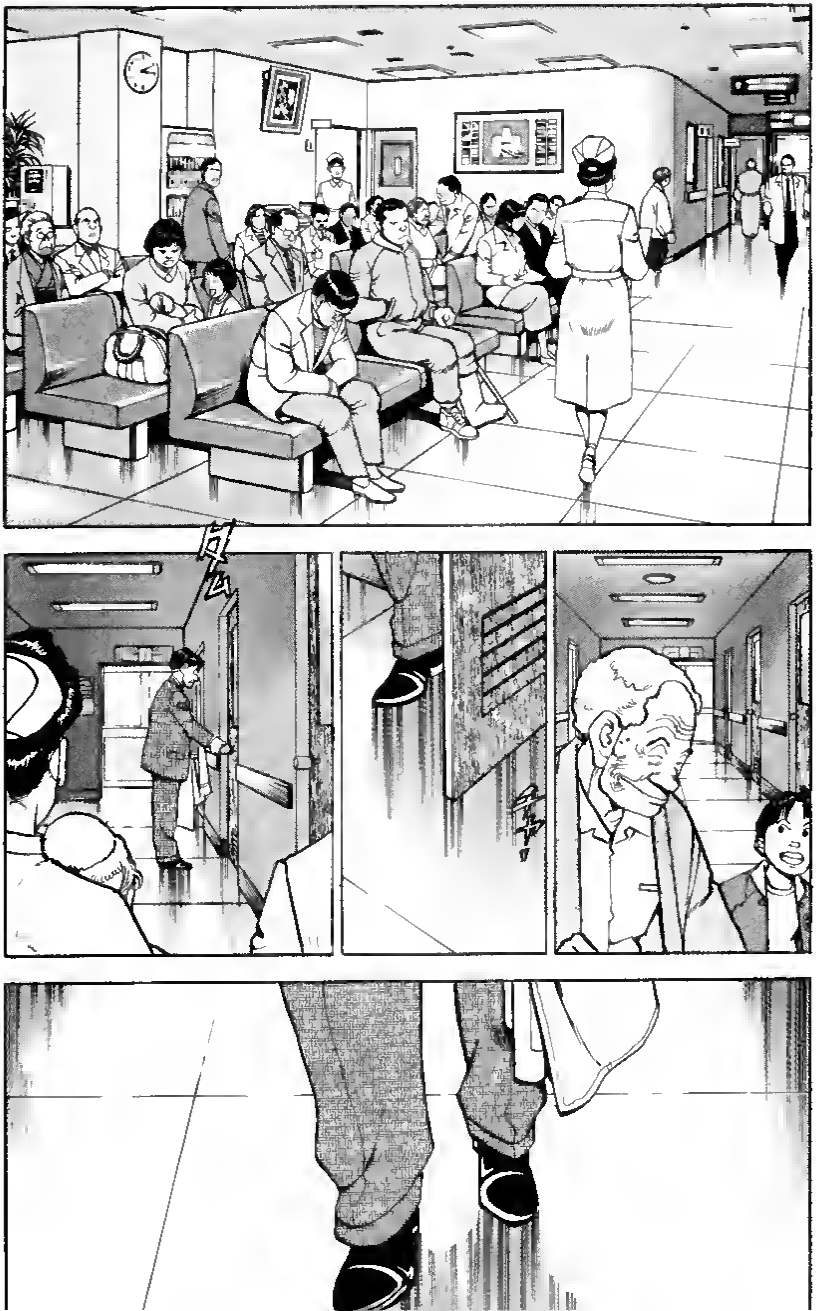
[1] [2] KITSUCHI UON COMPANY

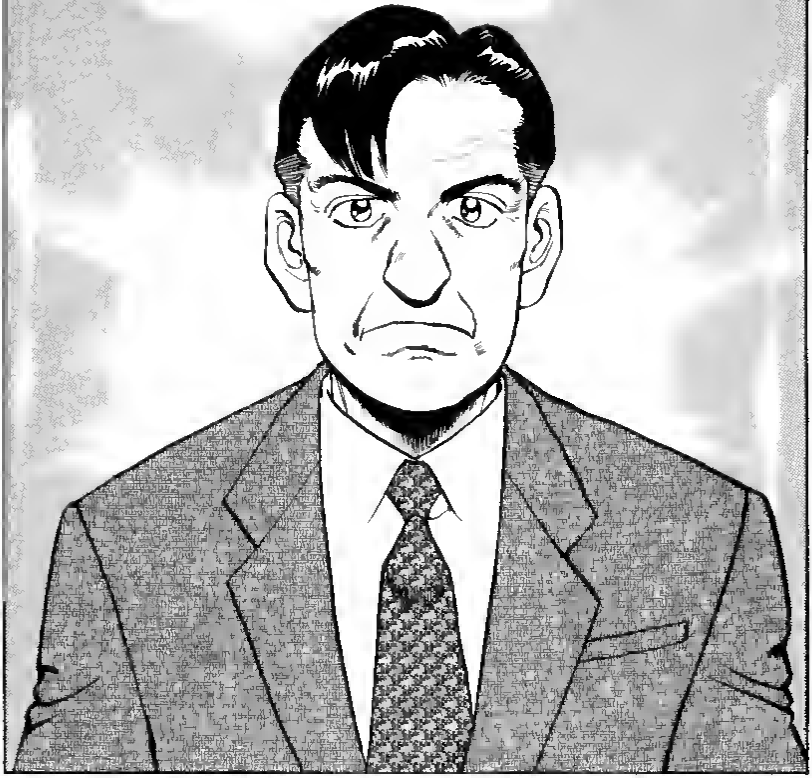
A-A
CORPSE!!

...
WHOA
!!

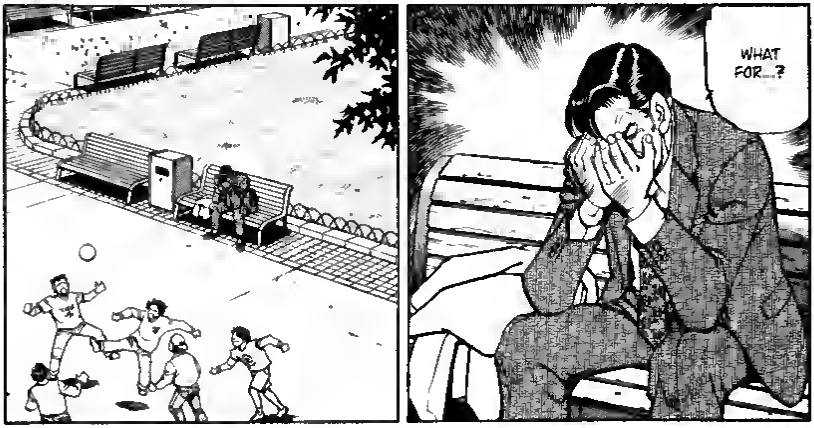
!!
WHAT
?!
A
CORPSE
?!
IS IT
HUMAN
?!

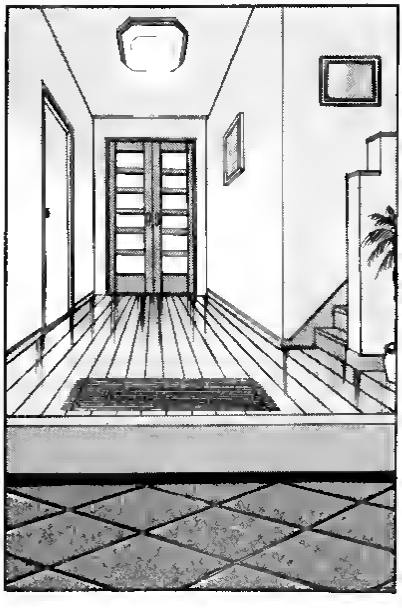
Same day,
2:15 p.m.,
Tokyo

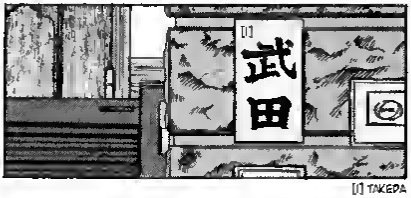

ガラ



"LET'S FIGHT TOGETHER!"

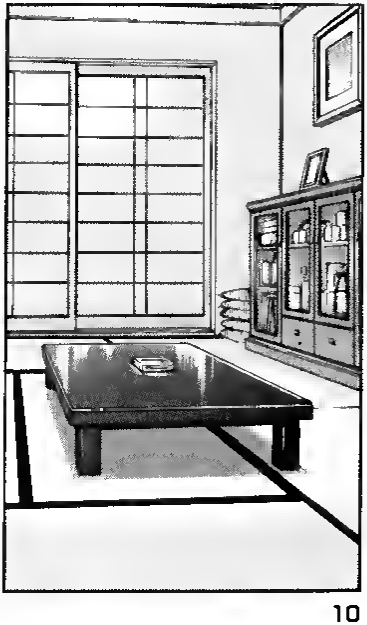

WHAT FOR...?

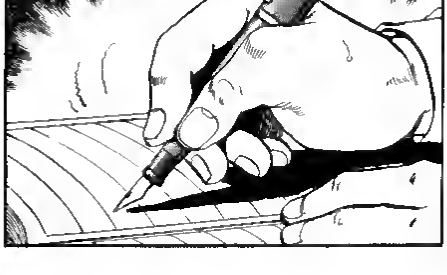




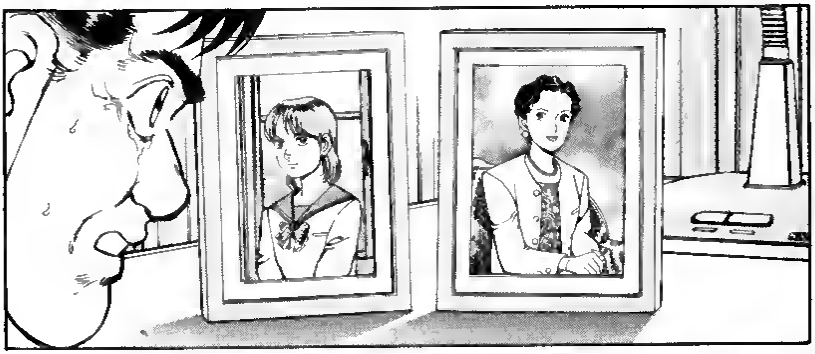
[1] TAKEDA

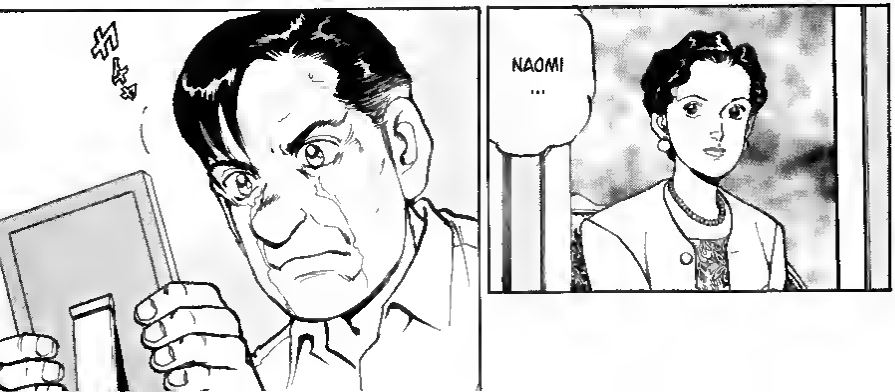
[2] "I AM FINE"



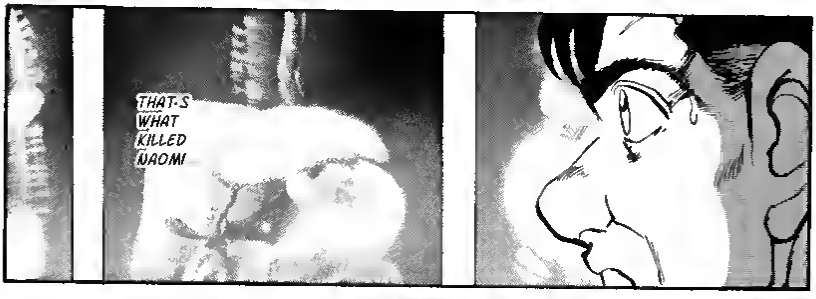


SOME-
BODY...
HELP
ME...!
:HUFF:
:HUFF:
:HUFF:




NAOMI
...

A MALIGNANT TUMOR OF THE EPITHELIUM OF THE LIVER AND PANCREAS


THAT'S WHAT KILLED NAOMI

YES ..
OH ..

I WILL TELL YOUR WIFE SHE HAS A VIRAL HEPATITIS.
IT'S BETTER THIS WAY.

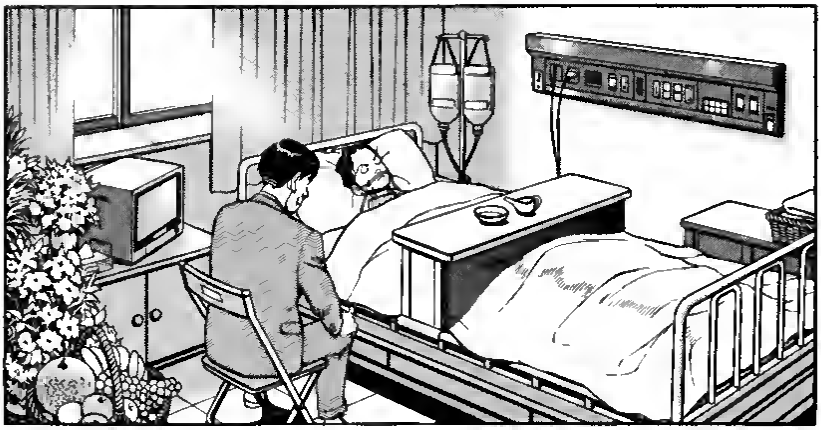
WE WILL DO WHAT WE CAN...

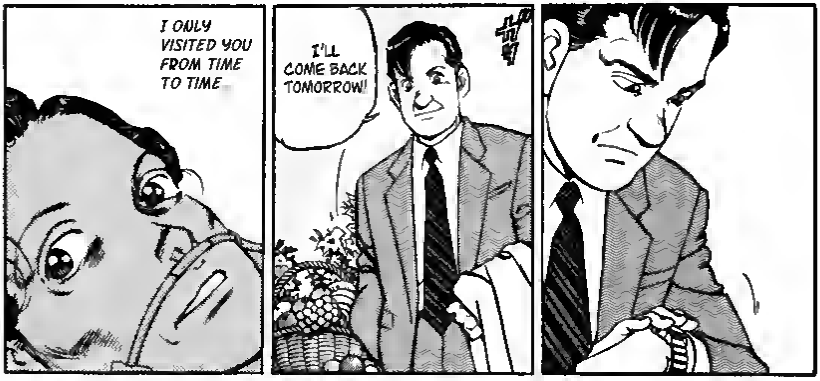
...BUT SHE ONLY HAS SIX MONTHS TO LIVE...
ONE YEAR AT BEST.
AND SIX MONTHS LATER
...JUST LIKE THE DOCTOR SAID, SHE...
THE SAME THING IS HAPPENING TO ME!

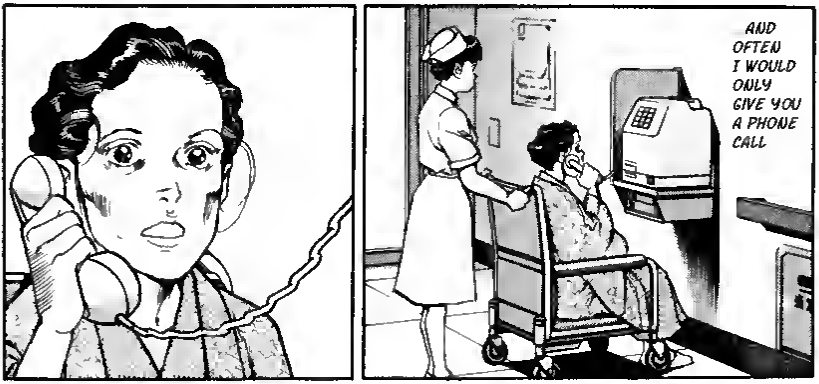
YOU HAVE A MALIGNANT TUMOR GROWING IN YOUR LIVER'S EPITHELIUM.
I WON'T HIDE THE TRUTH FROM YOU.
IT'S CANCER
IT'S IN AN ADVANCED STAGE, BUT THERE IS STILL HOPE

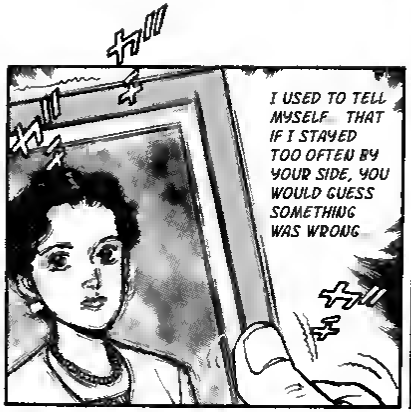
IN YOUR CASE, MEDICATIONS ARE BETTER THAN SURGERY
MISTER TAKEDA, LET'S FIGHT TOGETHER!
IF WE DO OUR BEST, THERE IS A CHANCE...
WE CAN FIGHT IT.
IS THAT IT...?
TO FIGHT ..
IS THAT IT...?!
YOUR BEST..

NAOMI...
HELP... SOMEBODY... HELP ME...
HELP ME...!




I ONLY VISITED YOU FROM TIME TO TIME
I'LL COME BACK TOMORROW!


AND OFTEN I WOULD ONLY GIVE YOU A PHONE CALL


I USED TO TELL MYSELF... THAT IF I STAYED TOO OFTEN BY YOUR SIDE, YOU WOULD GUESS SOMETHING WAS WRONG.

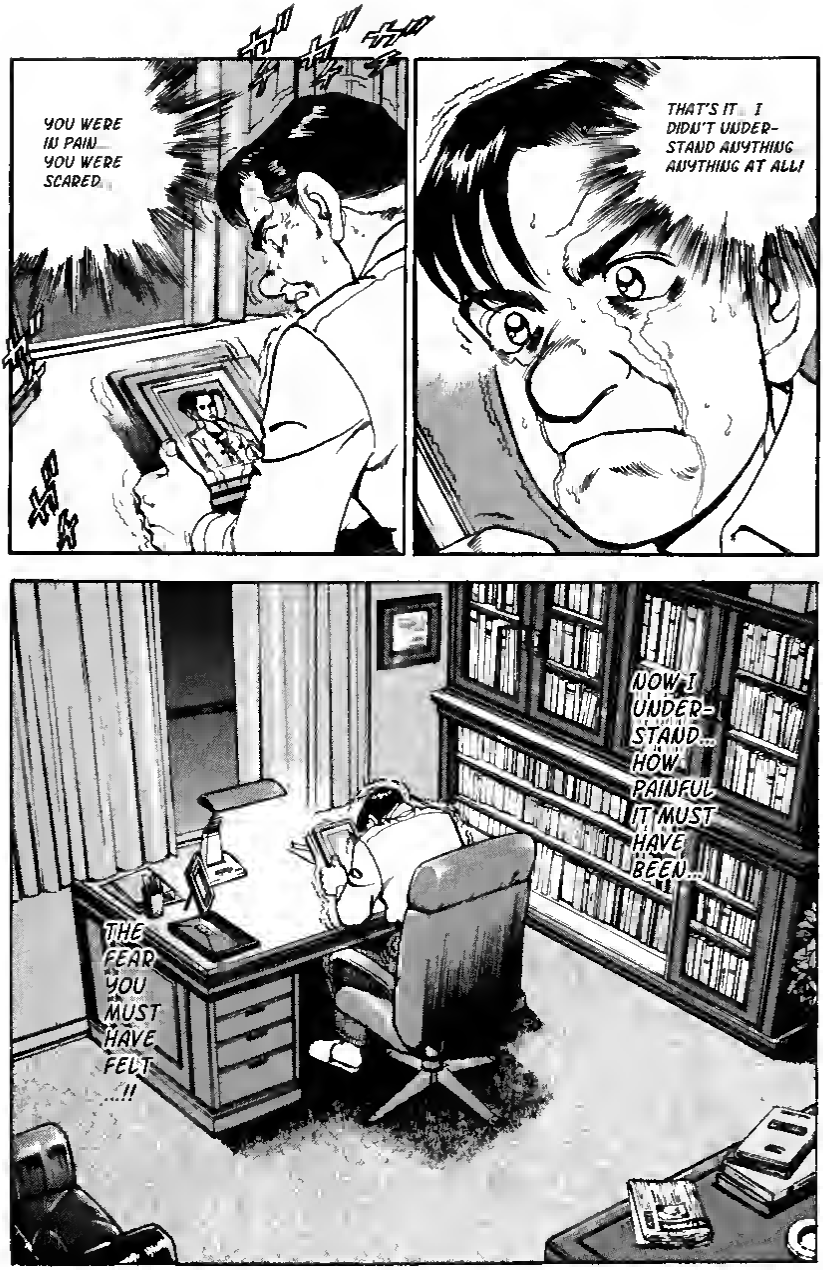
I... I HAD SO MUCH WORK THAT I COULDN'T BE NEXT TO YOU.

...WAS THAT REALLY THE REASON...?
BUT ...

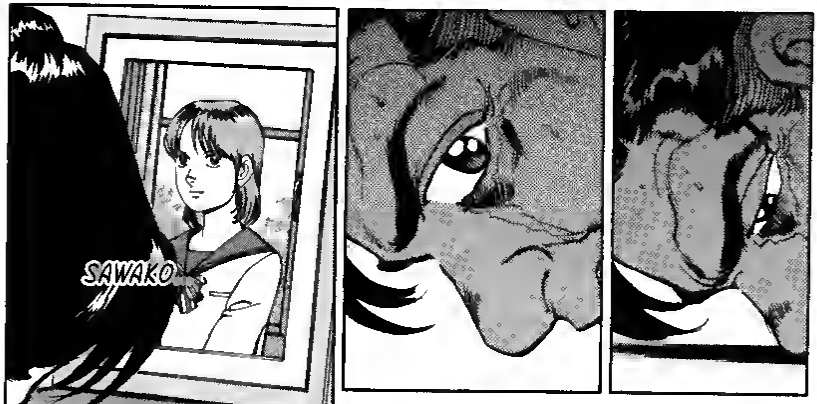
ALL THAT SUFFER-ING
TO TELL THE TRUTH I WAS INCA-PABLE OF BEARING ALL THAT SUFFERING

NO...!

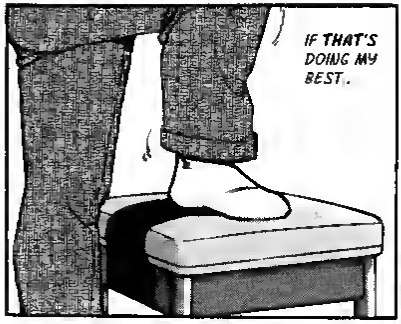
WASN'T IT THAT I WAS RELIEVED TO BE AWAY FROM YOU?


YOU WERE IN PAIN... YOU WERE SCARED...
THAT'S IT... I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND ANYTHING ANYTHING AT ALL!
NOW I UNDER-STAND... HOW PAINFUL IT MUST HAVE BEEN...
THE FEAR YOU MUST HAVE FELT ...!!

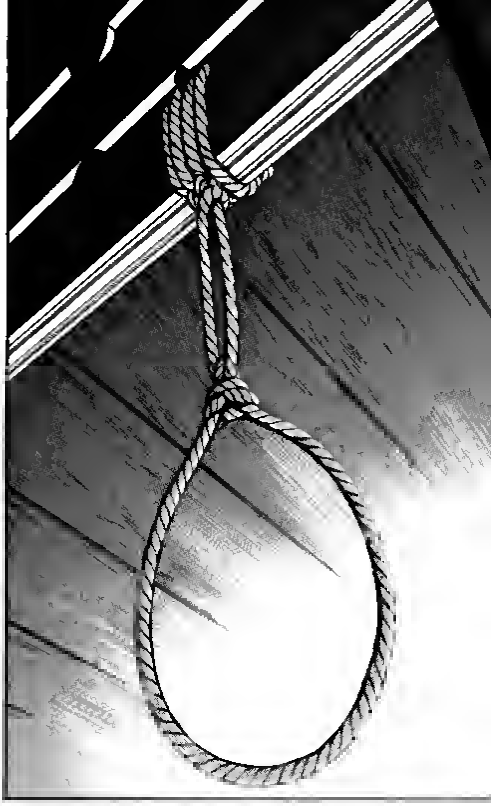
IT'S UNBEAR-ABLE!!


SAWAKO

BECAUSE I ABANDONED NAOMI AND BECAUSE I DIDN'T LOOK FOR YOU...
I HAVE BEEN PUNISHED, SAWAKO!
PUNISHED...
IT'S DAD'S TURN TO DIE...
THIS TIME IT'S DAD'S TURN!
...TO BE ABAN-DONED!
IT'S DAD'S TURN...

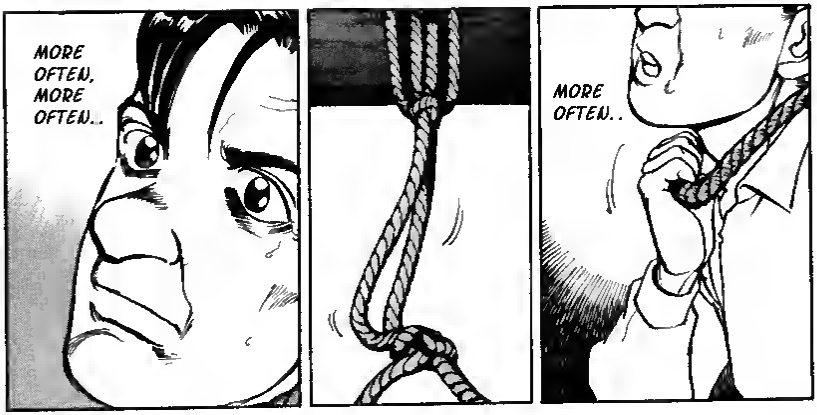

IF THAT'S DOING MY BEST.

IF THAT'S FIGHTING

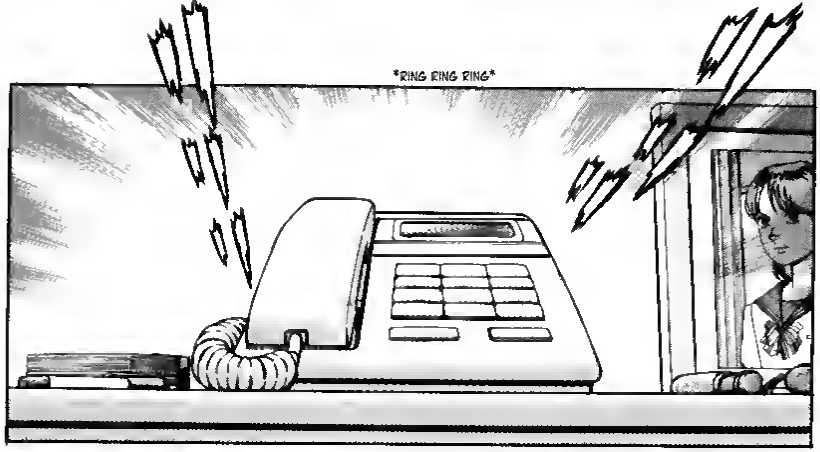


THEN I DON'T WANT TO!

IF ONLY I HAD BEEN MORE OFTEN WITH YOU TWO...
SORRY ...


MORE OFTEN, MORE OFTEN..
MORE OFTEN..

FORGIVE ME!!


RING RING RING

RING RING RING RING

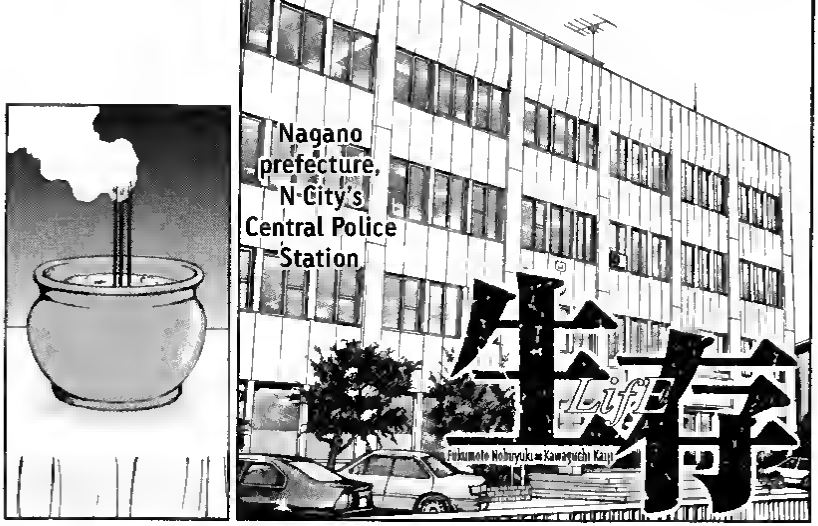
"RING RING RING"
DIDN'T I TELL THEM I WAS ON LEAVE TODAY?!
OH!
WE'LL LIKELY GET CONFIRMATION THIS WEEK.
REGARDING THE HARUMI FOREST.
DIRECTOR TAKEDA..
YES...?
IT'S LOOKING GOOD!

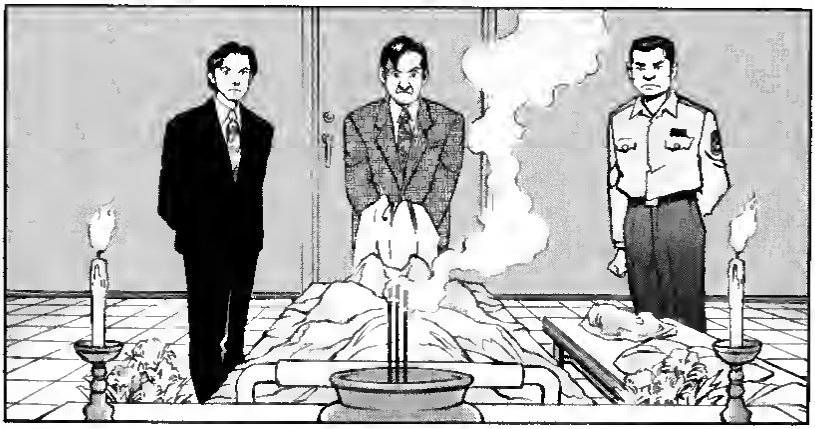
IN THAT CASE, THE NEXT PRESIDENT WILL CERTAINLY BE--
IF EVERYTHING GOES AS EXPECTED, OUR BUSINESS RESULTS WILL SET US A NOTCH ABOVE THE ISHIYAMA GROUP!
NO DOUBT!
IT WOULD BE A HUGE SUCCESS FOR US!
I'LL CALL YOU AS SOON AS IT'S OFFICIAL
EHEHEE
RING RING RING

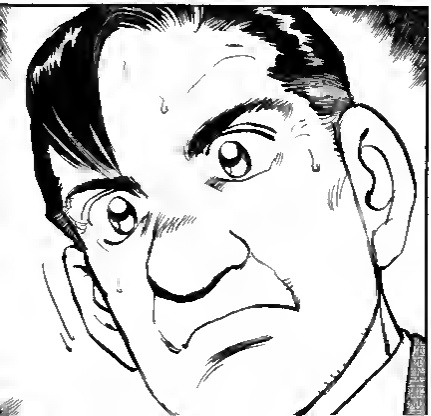
"BEEP"
Please leave your message after the beep...
NOTHING MATTERS ANYMORE
Mr. Takeda...?
I'm calling concerning your daughter whom you reported as missing 14 years ago...
This is the police station of ** City

[1] NAGANO PREFECTURE (NAGANO-KEN) IS SITUATED ALMOST AT THE GEOGRAPHICAL CENTER OF JAPAN, ON THE MAIN ISLAND OF HONSHU. THE CAPITAL IS THE CITY OF NAGANO.

We found her corpse today.
It was in the parking lot of a golf club in ** City, in Nagano prefecture!. It appears that she died 14 years ago

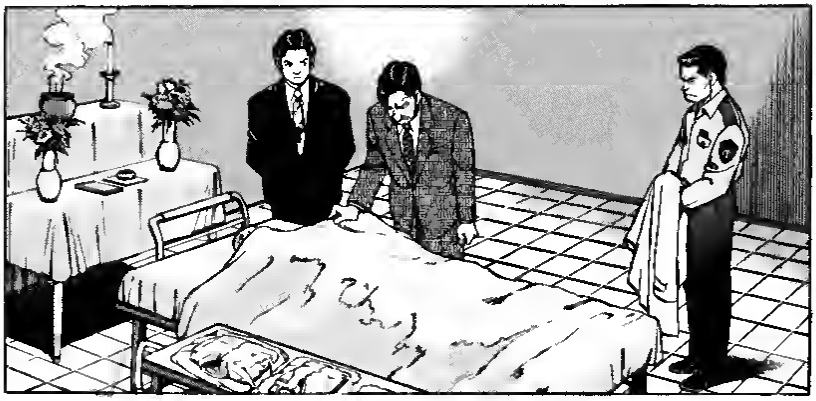

Nagano prefecture, N-City's Central Police Station
生存
Life
Fukumoto Noburyuki × Kawaguchi Kaiji

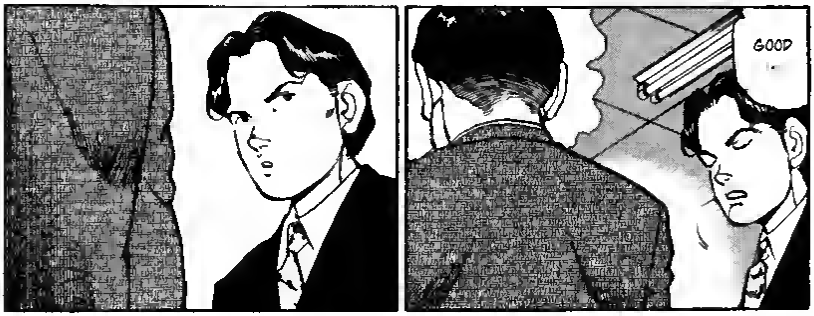


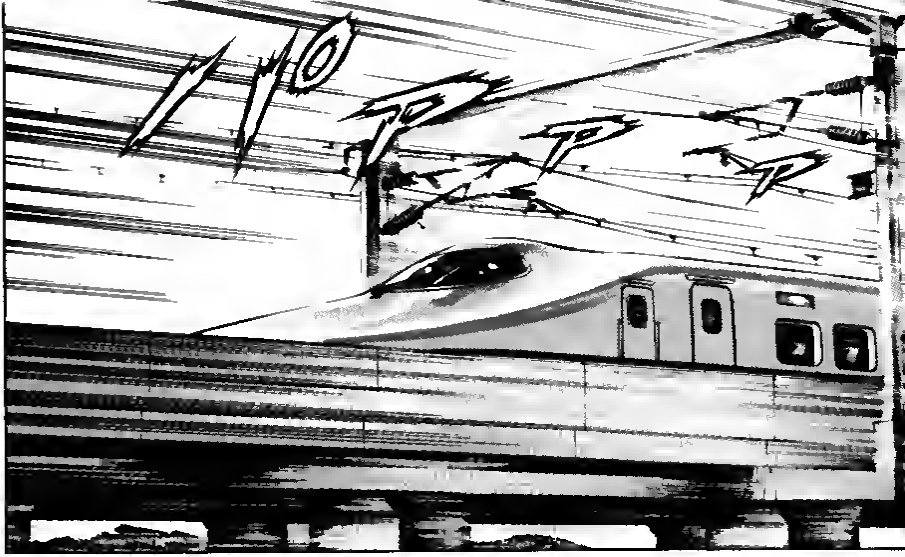


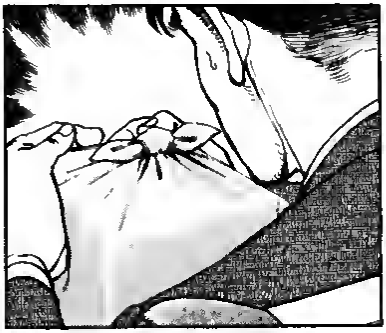
PLEASE GO AHEAD, SIR...
YE-YES..

SAWA...
KO...?




GOOD

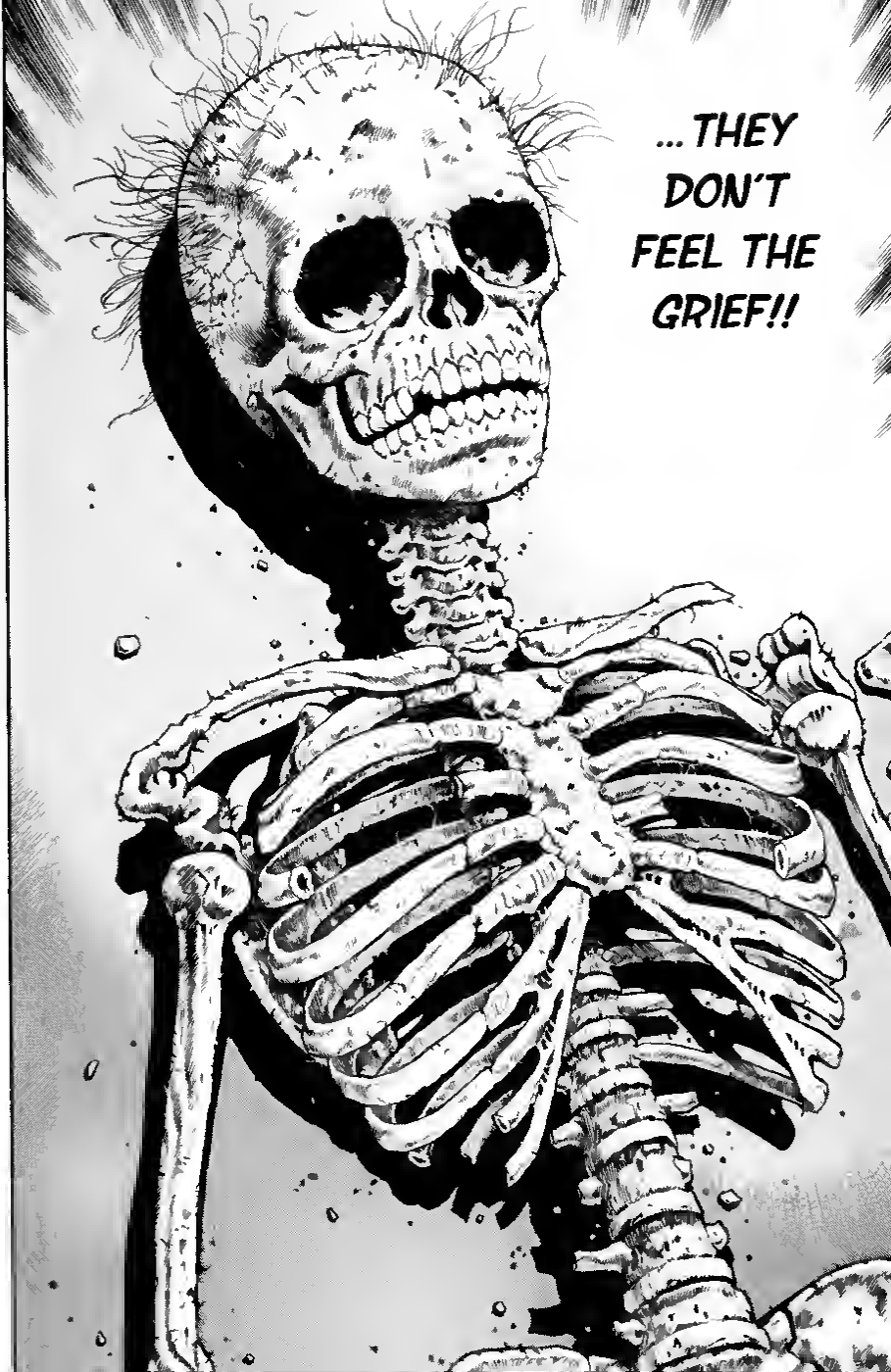


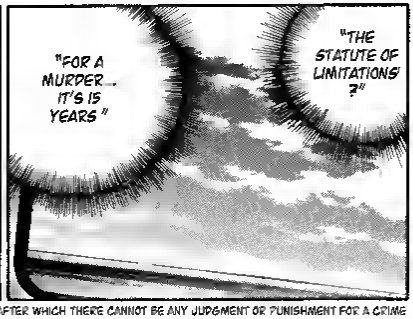


"BUT THIS TRAGEDY IS ALREADY 14 YEARS OLD AFTER ALL..."

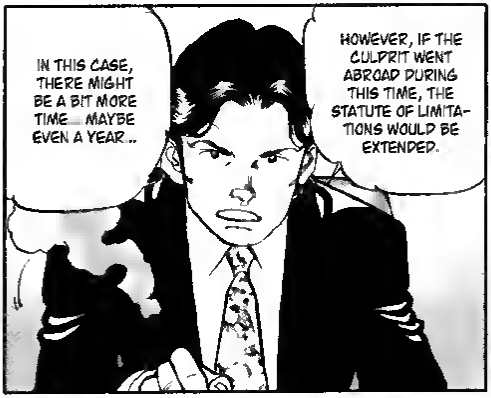
"WELL OF COURSE WE'LL OPEN A CASE."
"AN INVESTI-GATION?"

THE INVESTIGATION WILL BE... DIFFICULT.
IT WOULD BE DIFFERENT IF WE HAD SOME LEADS CONCERNING THE KILLER...
...
HUH?
I WOULD LIKE... TO ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR.
...THEY WOULD JUST BUNGLE THE CASE.
EVEN IF THEY DID...
I'M SURE THEY DON'T WANT TO INVESTIGATE!
SIMPLY BECAUSE...


...THEY DON'T FEEL THE GRIEF!!



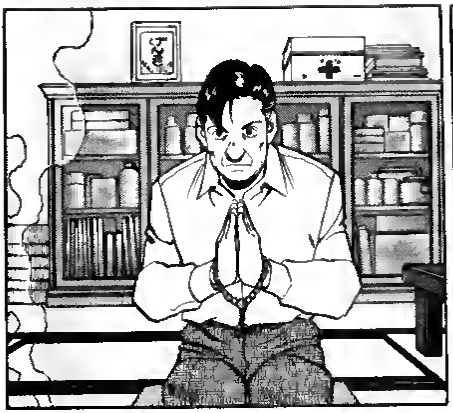
[1] A TIME LIMIT AFTER WHICH THERE CANNOT BE ANY JUDGMENT OR PUNISHMENT FOR A CRIME

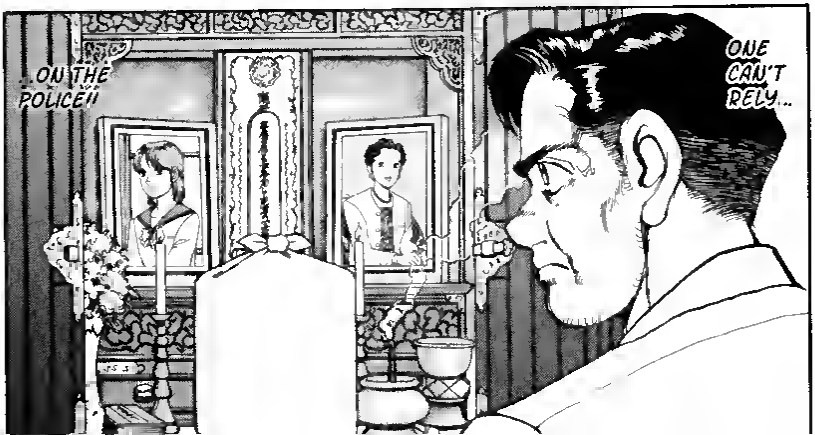

IN THIS CASE, THERE MIGHT BE A BIT MORE TIME... MAYBE EVEN A YEAR..
HOWEVER, IF THE CULPRIT WENT ABROAD DURING THIS TIME, THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS WOULD BE EXTENDED.

"THE INVESTIGATION WILL BE... DIFFICULT..."
AN INVESTIGATING TEAM?
THIS CRIME DATES 14 YEARS BACK I DOUBT WE CAN GATHER ENOUGH PEOPLE TO CALL IT A TEAM
SAWA... KO...
YOU DIDN'T WANT TO DIE, RIGHT?!
YOU DIDN'T WANT TO DIE.
SAWAKO

JUST LIKE ME TODAY...
NO, YOU DIDN'T..
..WANT TO DIE!

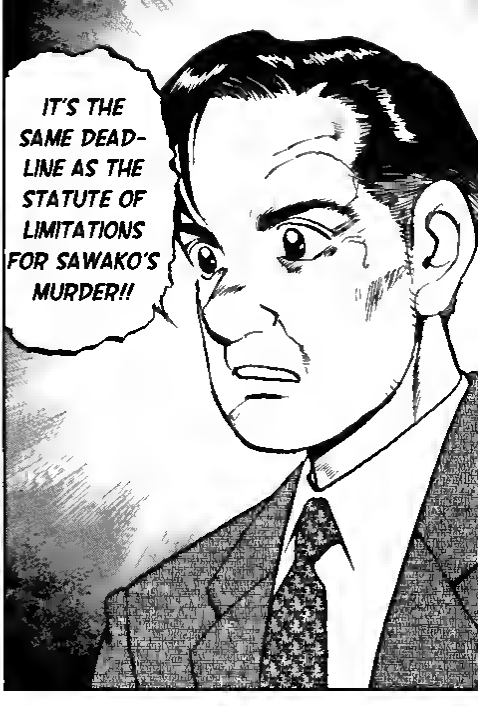
I DON'T WANT TO DIE, EITHER ...!!




...ON THE POLICE!!
ONE CAN'T RELY...

I UNDERSTAND, MR. TAKEDA...
APPARENTLY, YOU HAVE MADE YOUR DECISION.
IN THIS CASE, I'LL BE STRAIGHTFORWARD.
YOUR CANCER IS ALREADY IN ITS FINAL STAGE.
THOUGH THERE ARE SOME PATIENTS WHO HAVE LIVED FOR A YEAR.
YOU ONLY HAVE SIX MONTHS TO LIVE.
SIX MONTHS...?
SIX MONTHS...?
BEG YOUR PARDON?
IT'S THE SAME!

?

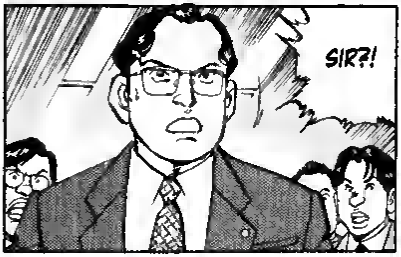

IT'S THE SAME DEAD-LINE AS THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR SAWAKO'S MURDER!!

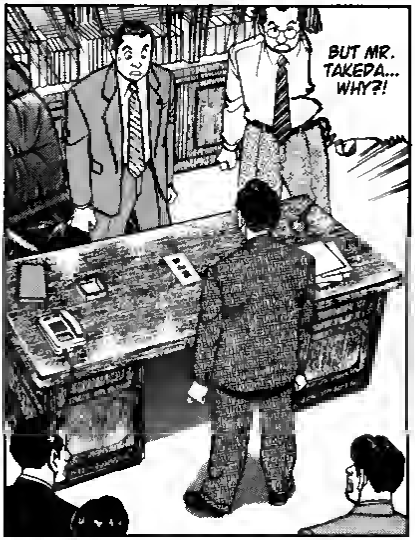
I'M VERY GRATEFUL YOU TOLD ME THE TRUTH.
T-THANK YOU, DOCTOR

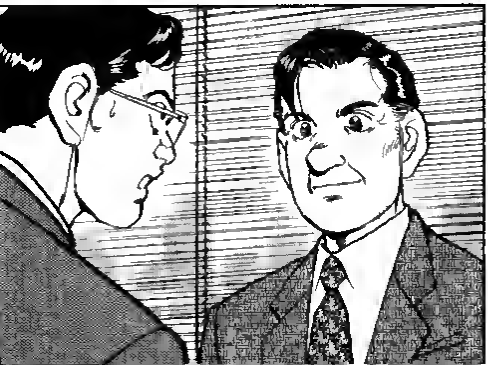
BUT..
IT PROBABLY HELPS TO ACT LIKE ONE...

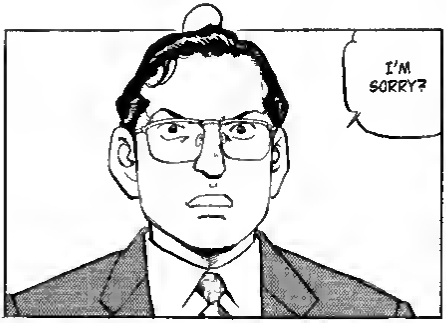
I'M NOT TRYING TO BE A HERO...
WELL...

[1] "LETTER OF RESIGNATION"



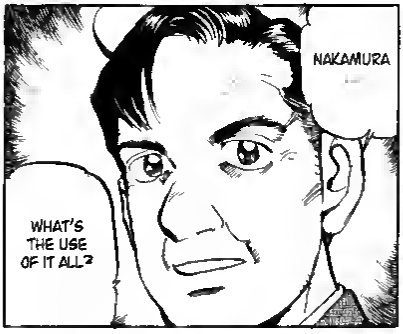




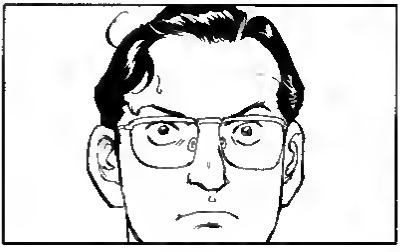

I'M SORRY?

MR. TAKEDA, WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?! YOU ARE ABOUT TO REACH THE TOP!
WHAT FOR?

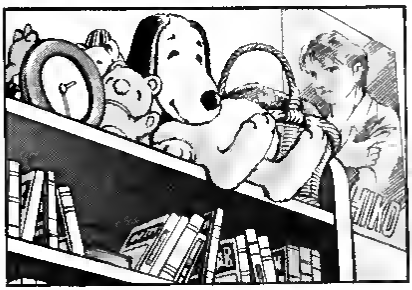
I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYMORE...

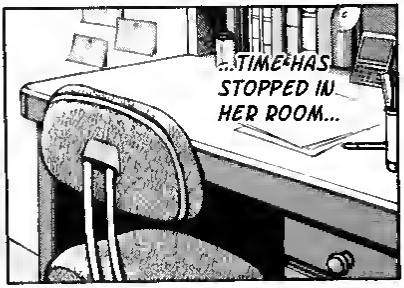

NAKAMURA
WHAT'S THE USE OF IT ALL?

WORK-- WHAT FOR? GETTING PROMOTED-- WHAT FOR?



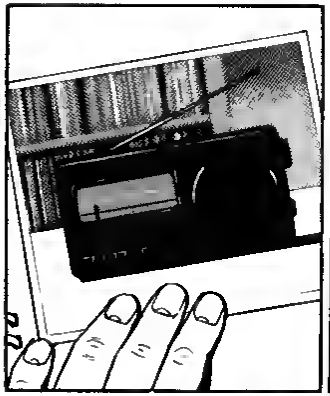
SINCE
THAT
DAY...


MIKO


...TIME HAS
STOPPED IN
HER ROOM...

MASAHIKO
THERE
MUST BE
SOME-
THING
HERE...
SOME
CLUES!

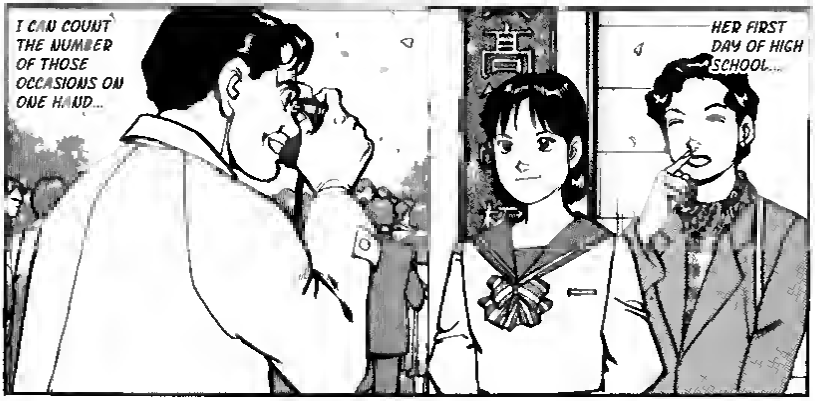
FREE HAND
MASAHIKO



HOW MANY TIMES DID I REALLY DO SOMETHING TO MAKE HER HAPPY?
I WAS A COLD AND DISTANT FATHER...
Memories

ONE OF HER BIRTH-DAYS...

THERE WAS... THIS RADIO THAT I GOT FOR HER...


I CAN COUNT THE NUMBER OF THOSE OCCASIONS ON ONE HAND...
HER FIRST DAY OF HIGH SCHOOL...

HER PRIVACY
I PRETENDED IT WAS TO RESPECT HER INDEPENDENCE
AT THE TIME, I NEVER WENT INTO HER ROOM
THESE WERE JUST EXCUSES... THE TRUTH IS THAT I WAS NEGLECTING HER!
IN FACT, THE WHOLE MATTER NEVER CONCERNED ME.

YET...
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S ALMOST AS IF I HAD ABANDONED MY OWN DAUGHTER
...SHE...
Memories

IT WAS YOU WHO CALLED ME, RIGHT...?
...SHE NEVER STOPPED LOVING ME
THE TIME LEFT BEFORE I DIE IS ALMOST THE SAME AS THE REMAINING PERIOD OF YOUR MURDER'S STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS!!
IT'S NOT A COINCI-DENCE!
...YOU WANTED ME TO SOLVE THIS CASE!!
IT'S AS IF...

"WHEN I PASS AWAY..."
"DEAR..."
BUT...
WHERE CAN I START LOOKING FOR CLUES?

DON'T BE SILLY..
!!

WHAT?
I'D LIKE YOU.. TO PUT THIS IN MY COFFIN.

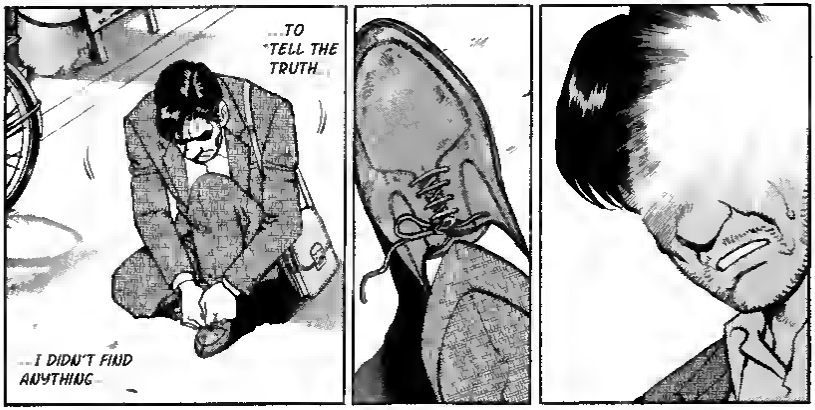
!
SAWAKO'S DIARY.
Diary
WHAT IS IT?
I WAS HOPING TO FIND CLUES IN HER DIARY...
I READ AND REREAD IT, BUT...
!!
WELL, I REALLY WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HER... IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS...
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD IT.
STOP IT!
WHAT IF SHE...

DEAR, I WANT YOU TO KEEP IT.
HUH ...?
YOU ARE RIGHT... I SHOULD STOP.
MAYBE THIS WILL HELP US IN THE FUTURE.
Diary

MY WIFE PROBABLY HAD THE FEELING THAT SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAD HAPPENED TO OUR DAUGHTER
BACK THEN, I DIDN'T EVEN READ IT!
!
SHE HAD GUESSED IT! AND SHE WAS RIGHT...
SHE GAVE IT TO ME HOPING I WOULD FIND A CLUE TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY!!
THAT'S THE REASON SHE DIDN'T TAKE IT WITH HER!

NOW THAT NAOMI IS NOT HERE ANYMORE, WHO ELSE BUT ME CAN AVENGE OUR DAUGHTER?!
"I ENTRUST YOU WITH IT..." THAT'S WHAT SHE TOLD ME!
I'M GOING TO FIND THE KILLER!!
IF THE GRIEF-STRICKEN DON'T DO IT, WHO WILL?!

I READ SAWAKO'S DIARY FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER, LOOKING AT EVERY LITTLE DETAIL, BUT...
生存
Fukumoto Nobuyuki × Kawaguchi Kaiji

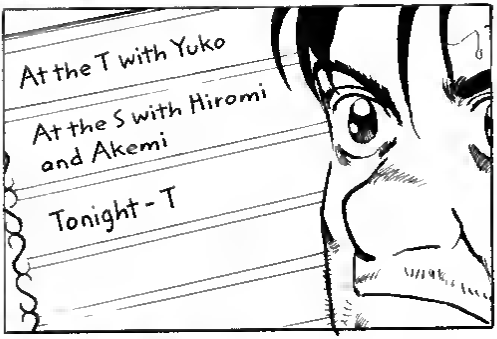

...TO TELL THE TRUTH...
...I DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING...

BECAUSE WHAT'S WRITTEN IN THIS DIARY ARE WITHOUT A DOUBT...
I'M SURE!
HOWEVER, THERE MUST BE SOME-THING!
McDonald's
中華 和屋

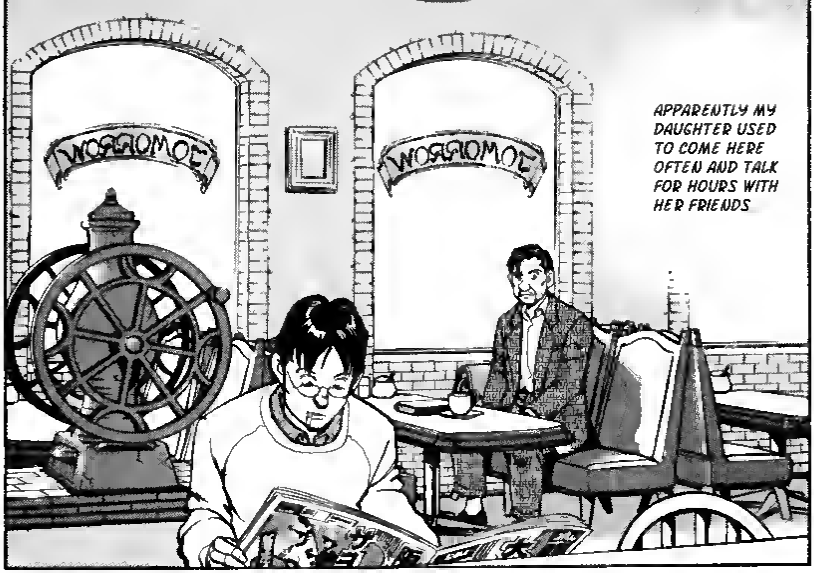
...SAWAKO'S OWN
WORDS!!

THESE ARE JUST ORDINARY WORDS...

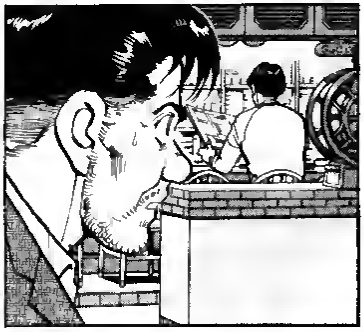
...THIS COFFEE SHOP, THE "TOMORROW"...
COFFEE SHOP
TOMORROW

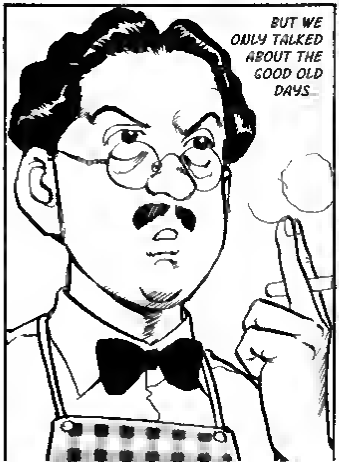

At the T with Yuko
At the S with Hiromi and Akemi
Tonight - T

THIS "T" CAN ONLY BE...

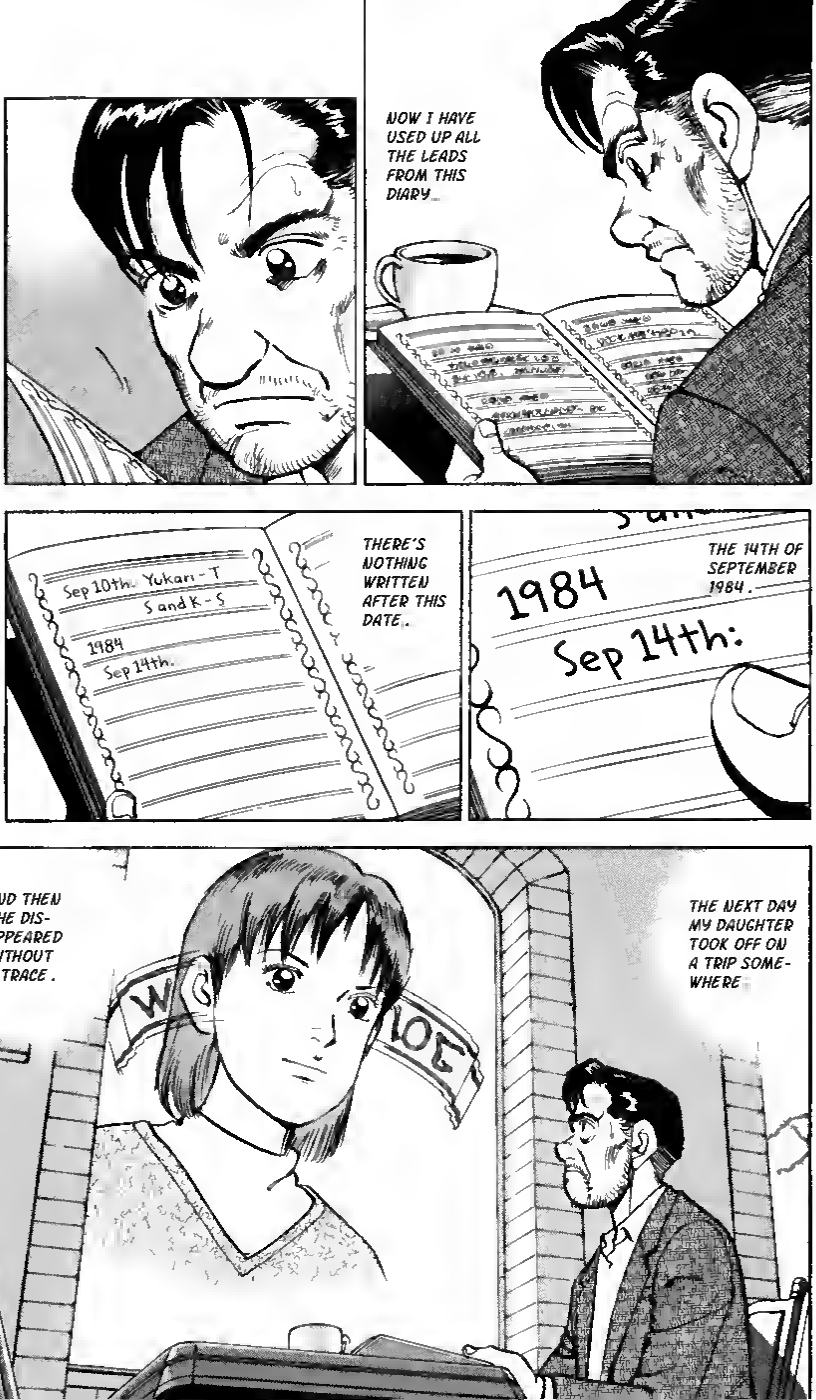

APPARENTLY MY DAUGHTER USED TO COME HERE OFTEN AND TALK FOR HOURS WITH HER FRIENDS...

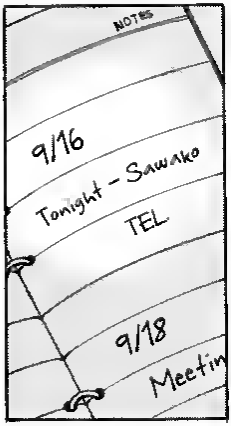
COFFEE
シュガー
HOUSE
THE OTHER PLACE THAT SHE USED TO FREQUENT WAS THE S--THE COFFEE SHOP "SUGAR" NEAR THE TRAIN STATION




BUT WE ONLY TALKED ABOUT THE GOOD OLD DAYS...

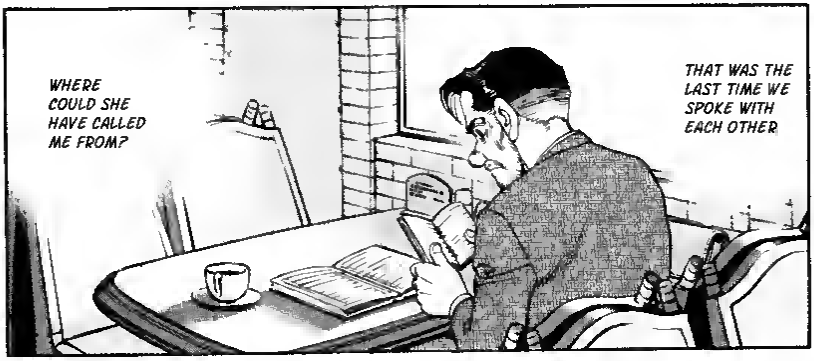
SUGAR
I WENT TO BOTH PLACES AND MET UP WITH THE OWNERS AS WELL AS MY DAUGHTER'S GIRLFRIENDS...


NOW I HAVE USED UP ALL THE LEADS FROM THIS DIARY.
Sep 10th. Yukari - T
S and K - S
1984
Sep 14th.
THERE'S NOTHING WRITTEN AFTER THIS DATE.
1984
Sep 14th:
THE 14TH OF SEPTEMBER 1984.
AND THEN SHE DIS-APPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE.
THE NEXT DAY MY DAUGHTER TOOK OFF ON A TRIP SOME-WHERE.

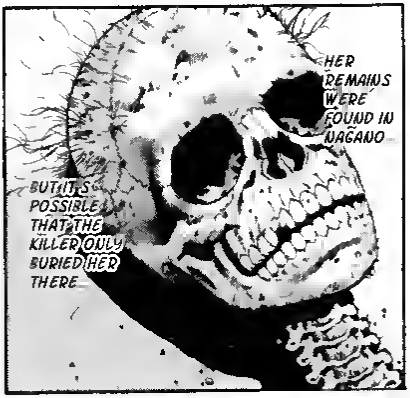

NOTES
9/16
Tonight - Sawako
TEL
9/18
Meetin

...I REMEMBER THAT SAWAKO GAVE US A CALL!

WHY YES. THE DAY AFTER SHE LEFT, THE 16TH OF SEPTEMBER...


WHERE COULD SHE HAVE CALLED ME FROM?
THAT WAS THE LAST TIME WE SPOKE WITH EACH OTHER

IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT SHE WAS ACTUALLY THERE ON THAT DAY WHILE SHE WAS RUNNING AWAY..

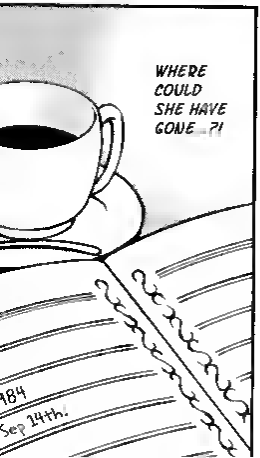

HER REMAINS WERE FOUND IN UAGAINO
BUT IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE KILLER ONLY BURIED HER THERE

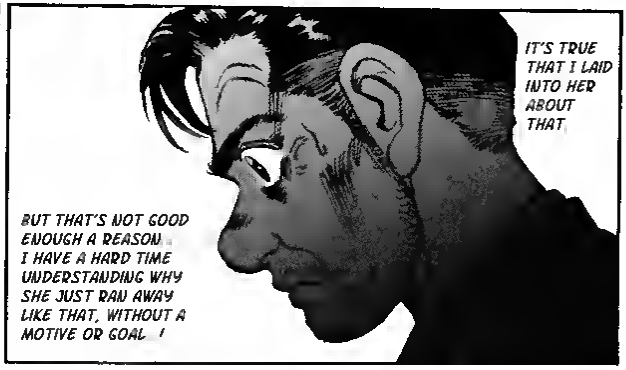
...WHERE SHE WAS THAT NIGHT... IF ONLY I...
IF ONLY I HAD ASKED HER
T
Yukari and T.U.
THERE ARE ONLY THESE TWO PEOPLE LEFT...
YES...
ARE YOU SAWAKO'S FATHER?
EXCUSE ME...

OH...!
I'M YUKARI ITO.
EVERY TIME I SEE MY DAUGHTER'S FRIENDS, I REALIZE THAT 14 YEARS HAVE PASSED.
I'M SORRY I ASKED TO SEE YOU ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.
I'M SO SORRY...
POOR SAWAKO
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM

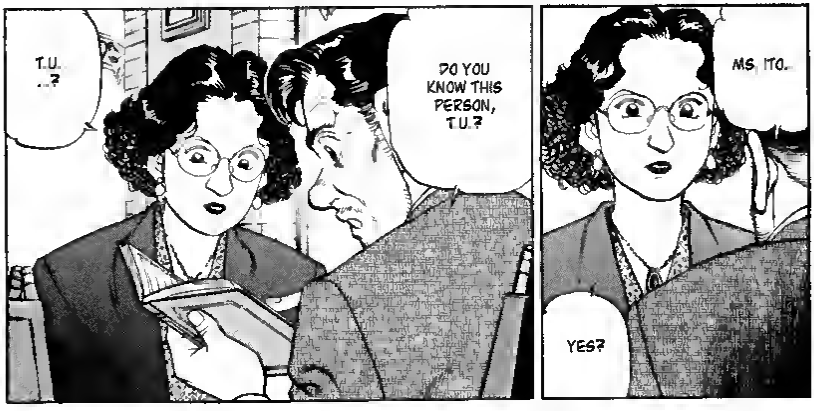
I HAVE TO FACE THE TRUTH... I DIDN'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO MY DAUGHTER WHILE SHE WAS THERE...
SHE TOLD ME ABOUT MY OWN DAUGHTER... AND IT WAS LIKE SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT A STRANGER...

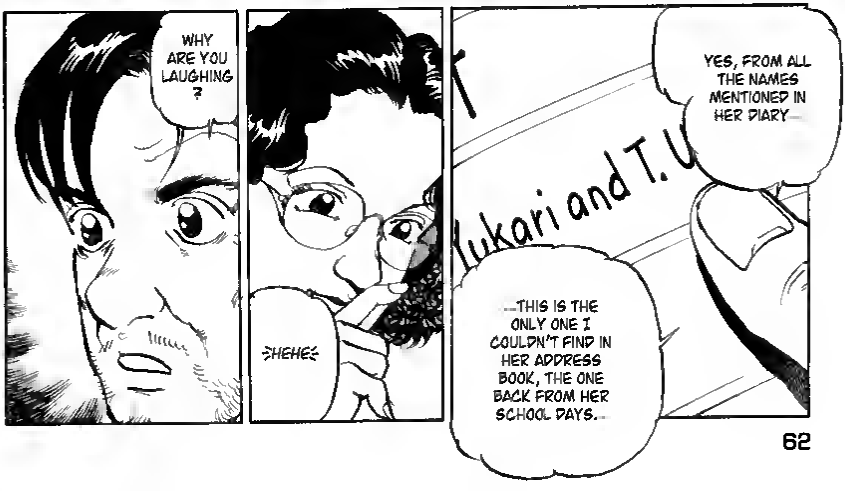
SHE SPENT HER TIME PLAYING HOOKY...
IN A WAY, I UNDER-STAND WHY SHE WOULD RUN AWAY...


WHERE COULD SHE HAVE GONE...?!
1984
Sep 14th.


IT'S TRUE THAT I LAID INTO HER ABOUT THAT.
BUT THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH A REASON... I HAVE A HARD TIME UNDERSTANDING WHY SHE JUST RAN AWAY LIKE THAT, WITHOUT A MOTIVE OR GOAL!

ari and T.U.
... THIS YOUNG LADY DOESN'T SEEM TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MY DAUGHTER'S DISAPPEARANCE, EITHER... WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW? HAVE I RUN OUT OF LEADS? IS THIS IT?


T.U. ...?
DO YOU KNOW THIS PERSON, T.U.?
MS. ITO.
YES?

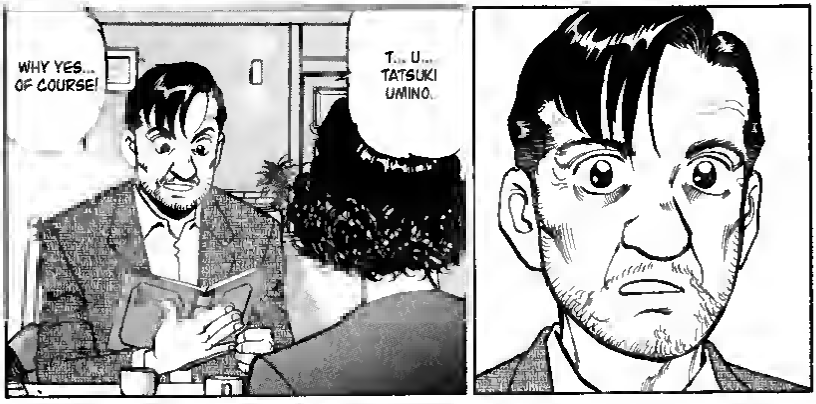

WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING ?
:HEHE:
Tukari and T.U
YES, FROM ALL THE NAMES MENTIONED IN HER DIARY...
...THIS IS THE ONLY ONE I COULDN'T FIND IN HER ADDRESS BOOK, THE ONE BACK FROM HER SCHOOL DAYS...

TATSUKI.. UMINO?
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF HIM? TATSUKI UMINO!
SIR, THIS... UM... IS NOT ONE OF SAWAKO'S FRIENDS! HE WAS A FAMOUS YOUNG PRODIGY PAINTER...

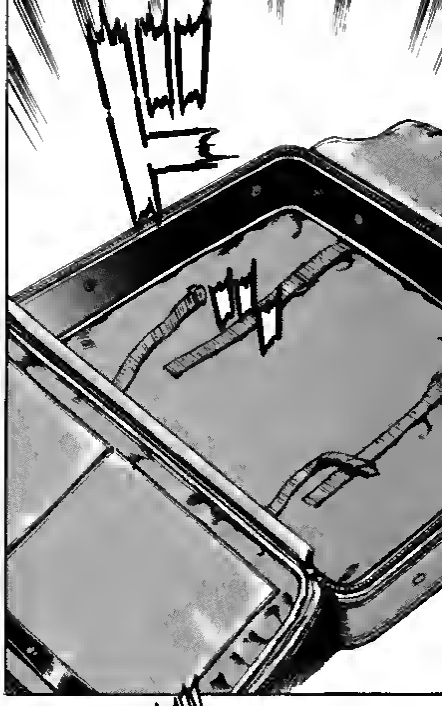
BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL, WE WERE CRAZY ABOUT HIS PAINTINGS...
ESPECIALLY SAWAKO, SHE ADMIRED HIM TREMENDOUSLY.

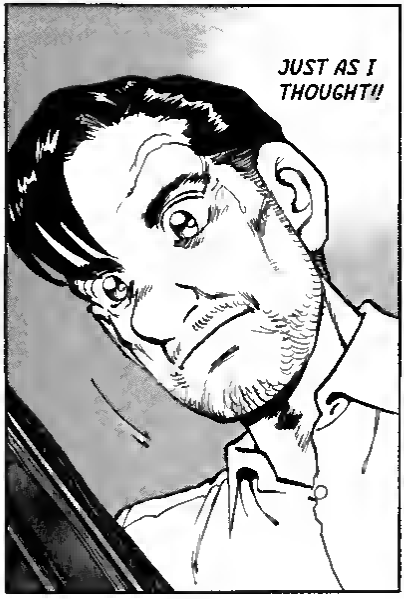
Umino Tatu

UMINO?


WHY YES... OF COURSE!
T... U... TATSUKI UMINO...

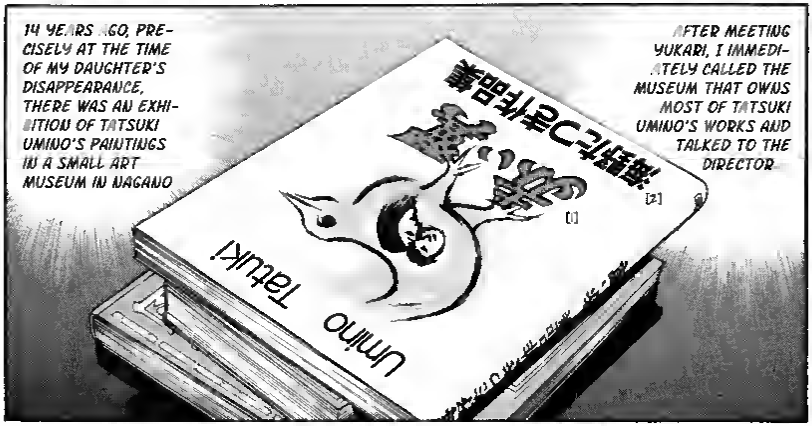
...!
N-NO. IT'S NOTHING... THANK YOU.
HOLD ON..
WHAT IS IT?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH..

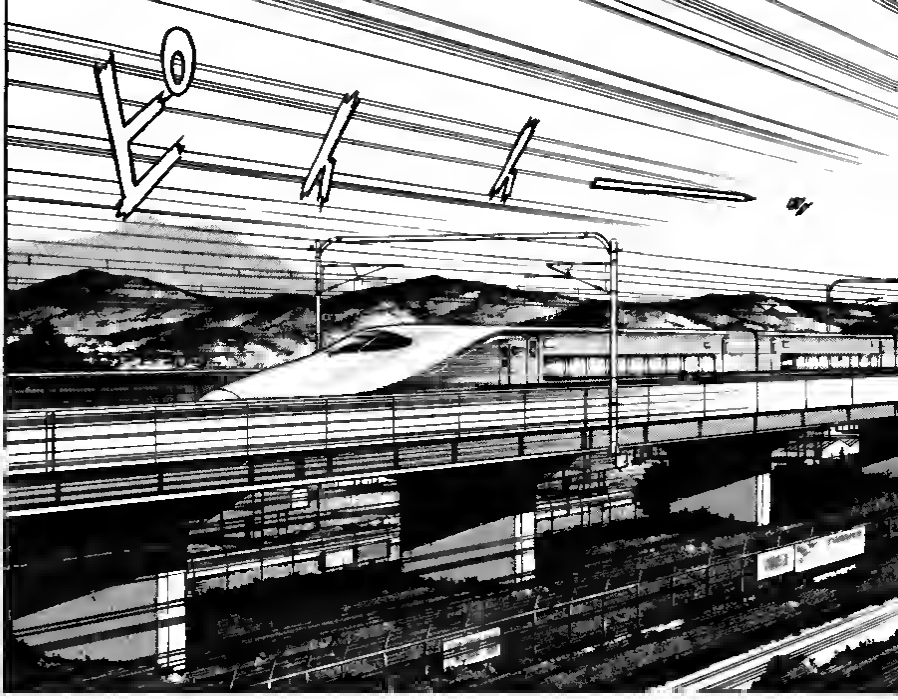



JUST AS I THOUGHT!!

げんき

[1] "AKAI TSUBASA" (RED WINGS)
[2] THE COLLECTIVE WORKS OF TATSUKI UMINO


14 YEARS AGO, PRECISELY AT THE TIME OF MY DAUGHTER'S DISAPPEARANCE, THERE WAS AN EXHIBITION OF TATSUKI UMINO'S PAINTINGS IN A SMALL ART MUSEUM IN NAGANO
AFTER MEETING YUKARI, I IMMEDIATELY CALLED THE MUSEUM THAT OWNS MOST OF TATSUKI UMINO'S WORKS AND TALKED TO THE DIRECTOR
Umino Tatsuki
[1]
[2]

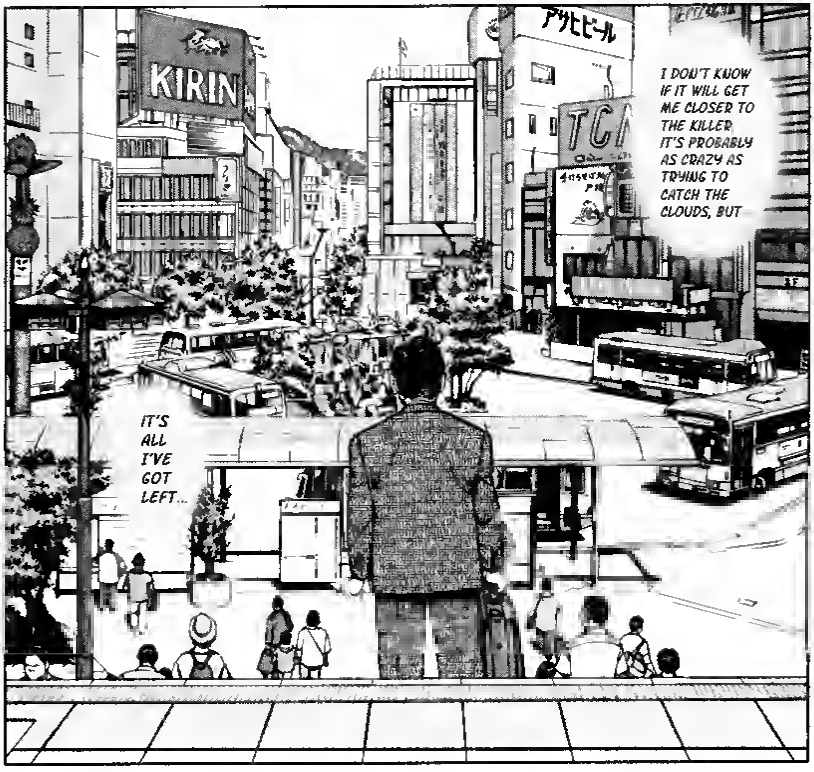

ヒカリ

A BLUE SKY THAT SEEMS TO BLESS THE WHOLE WORLD..

THE DAY SAWAKO LEFT...
ON THE 15TH OF SEP-TEMBER 1984

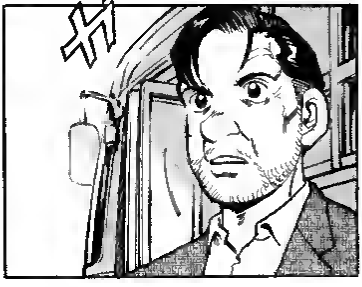
...WAS THE SKY THE SAME AS TODAY?

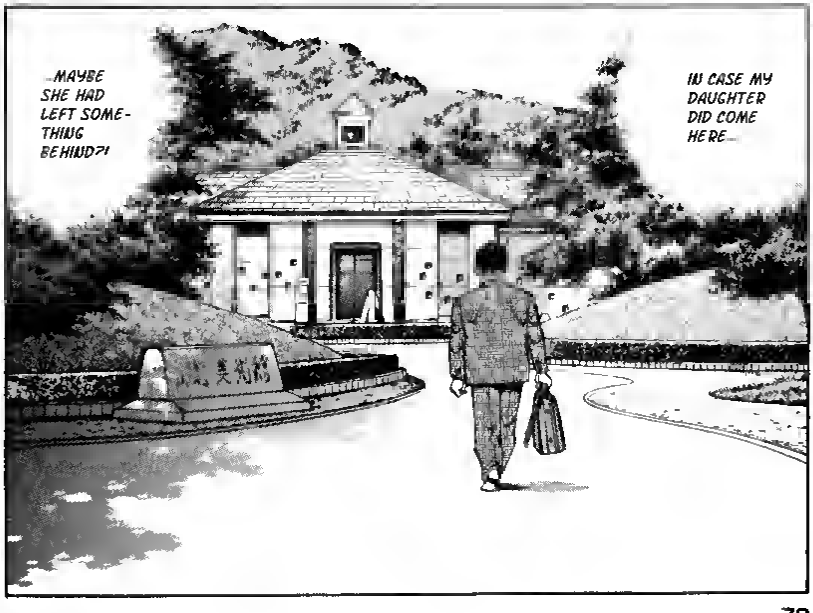
I WANT TO SEE EVERY-THING SHE SAW, FEEL EVERYTHING SHE FELT..
みどりの窓口
Reserved Tickets
東口
East Exit
I'M GOING TO WALK IN MY DAUGHTER'S FOOTSTEPS, FOLLOW THE PATH SHE TOOK 14 YEARS AGO.


KIRIN
I DON'T KNOW IF IT WILL GET ME CLOSER TO THE KILLER. IT'S PROBABLY AS CRAZY AS TRYING TO CATCH THE CLOUDS, BUT
IT'S ALL I'VE GOT LEFT...

[ ][ ] ART MUSEUM

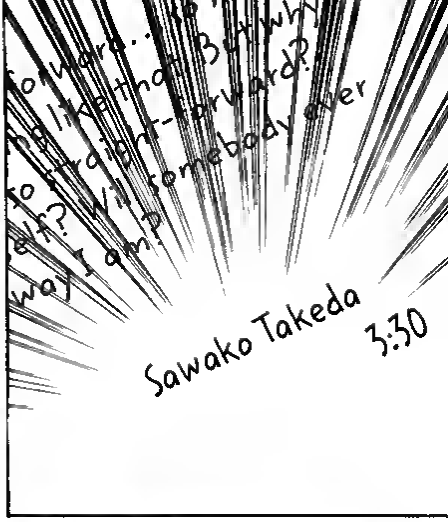
FUSO



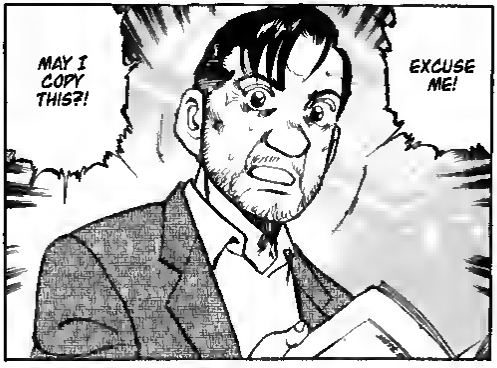

...MAYBE SHE HAD LEFT SOME-THING BEHIND?!
IN CASE MY DAUGHTER DID COME HERE...

I'LL TAKE A LOOK, BUT I DOUBT WE HAVE THEM.
PLEASE! IT'S VERY IMPOR-TANT!
THE GUEST BOOKS FROM 14 YEARS AGO? I'M NOT SURE IF WE STILL HAVE THOSE...
HERE ARE ALL THE BOOKS FROM THAT TIME.
I'M SURE SHE CAME HERE! IT WAS DURING THE TATSUKI UMINO EXHIBITION.
NOTE BOOK
ONLY ONE LEFT...
No 13

I... I FOUND IT..!
NOTE BOOK

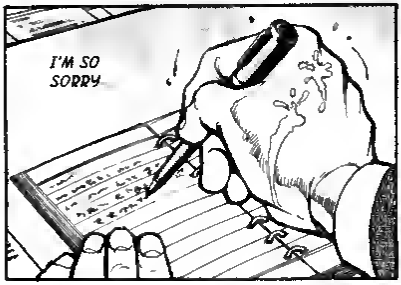

Sawako Takeda
3:30

BE MY GUEST


MAY I COPY THIS?!
EXCUSE ME!

Tatsuki... How did you manage to be so frank?
You're so straight-forward... so honest...
I'm scared of being like that. But why...?
Why can't I be so straight-forward?
Do I hate myself? Will somebody ever love me the way I am?

Sawako Takeda
3:30



SAWAKO!!
UNTIL WHAT TIME DO YOU INTEND TO STAY AWAKE?!
be so straight
Do I hate myself?
Will somebody ever love me the way I am?

WERE YOU THAT FRIGHTENED, WERE YOU THAT LONELY...?
DEAR SAWAKO

I'VE FOUND YOU AT LAST..
BUT... IT'S TOO LATE... IF ONLY I HAD UNDERSTOOD EARLIER...

A LOT LOT MORE!!
I SHOULD HAVE TALKED MORE WITH YOU...

生存
Life
Fukumoto Nobuyuki×Kawaguchi Kaiji

SHE DID COME HERE!!
MY DAUGHTER WAS IN THE KOGEN MUSEUM ON THE 16TH OF SEPTEMBER AT 3 30 PM
[1] KOGEN ART MUSEUM

[1] NAGANO STATION (←) SHIGA KOGEN (ALSO KNOWN IN ENGLISH AS THE SHIGA HIGHLAND. LOCATED AT THE CENTER OF THE JOSHIN'ETSU KOGEN NATIONAL PARK IN NAGANO PREFECTURE, IT'S THE LARGEST SKI AND HIKING RESORT IN JAPAN.)

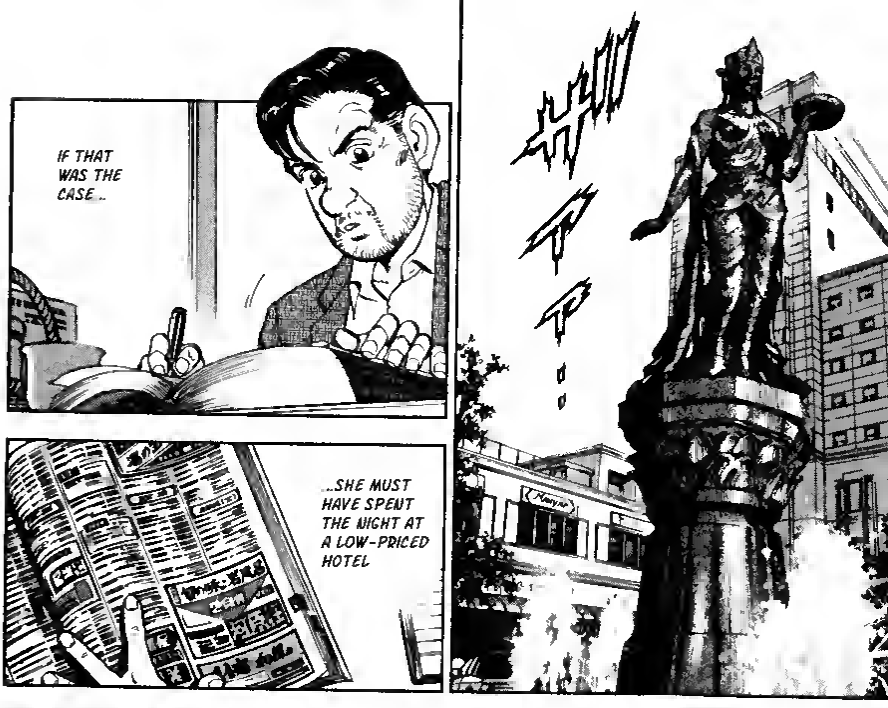
[1]
長野駅←→志賀高原

THAT'S FOR CERTAIN!!

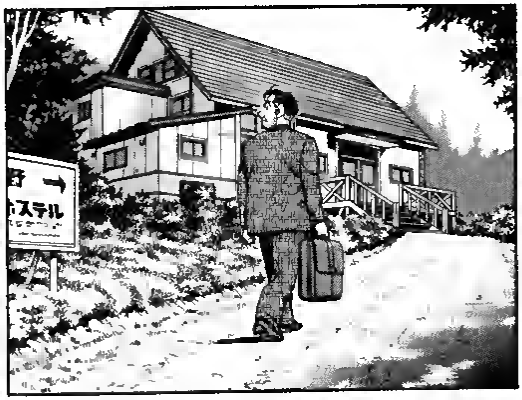
...IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE THAT SHE ARRIVED HERE ON THE DAY BEFORE...!

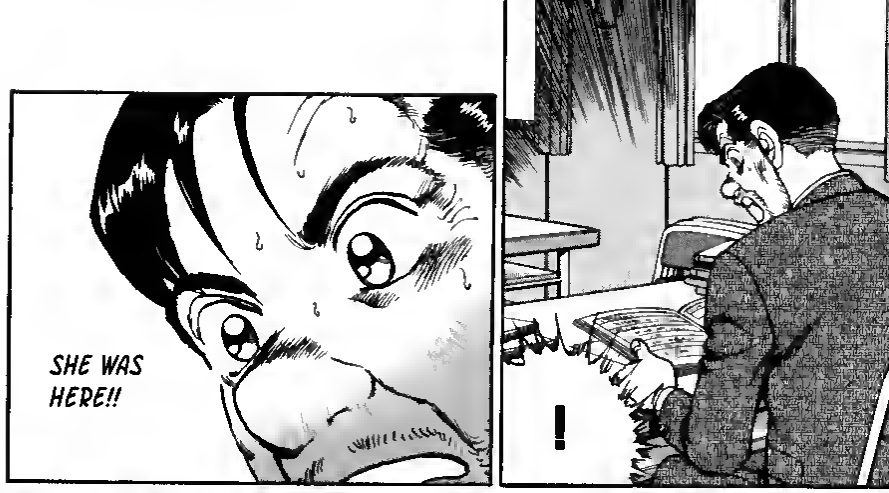
BUT... IT WAS ON THE 15TH OF SEPTEMBER THAT SHE DISAPPEARED...

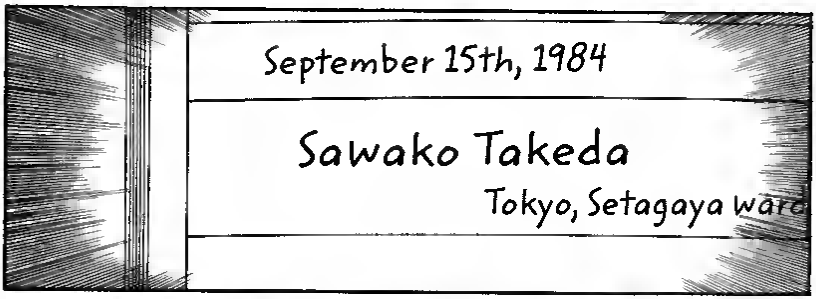
WHILE SHE COULD HAVE COME HERE ON THE 16TH AND GONE BACK TO NAGANO WITHIN THE SAME DAY...


IF THAT WAS THE CASE...
...SHE MUST HAVE SPENT THE NIGHT AT A LOW-PRICED HOTEL
Shigano Youth Hostel .... (0269-
SHE WAS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AND BY HERSELF THE ONLY PLACE SHE COULD HAVE STAYED AT WITHOUT AROUSING SUSPICION WOULD BE...
BINGO! THIS YOUTH HOSTEL LIES CLOSE TO THE MUSEUM!

[1] SHIGANO YOUTH HOSTEL




SHE WAS HERE!!
!

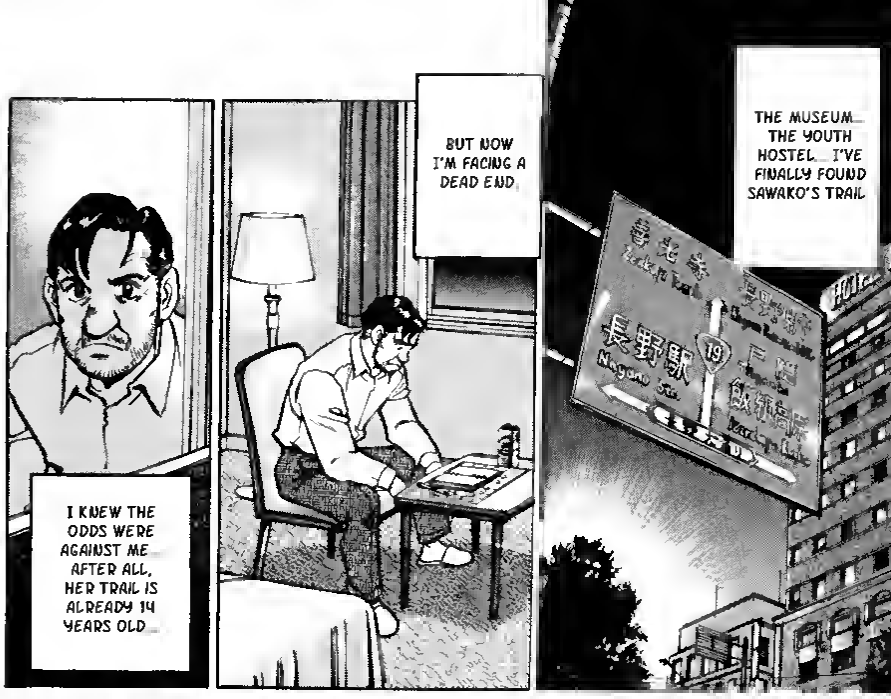

September 15th, 1984
Sawako Takeda
Tokyo, Setagaya ward

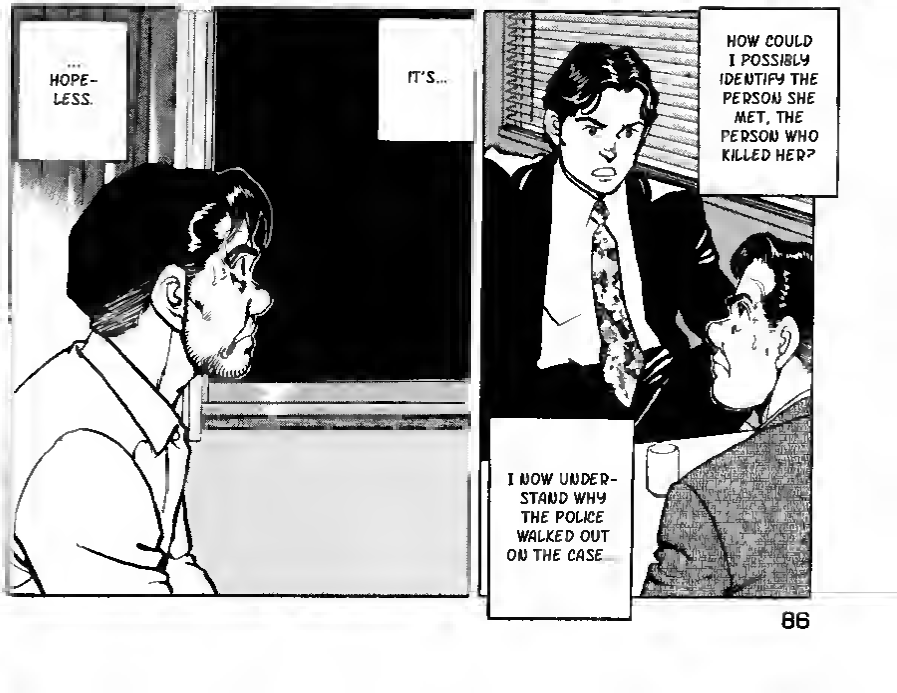
AT THIS YOUTH HOSTEL!!
THE DAY BEFORE SHE VISITED THE MUSEUM SHE STAYED HERE!

AND THE NEXT DAY SHE HEADED TO THE MUSEUM!
HOW DO YOU USUALLY GET FROM HERE TO THE KOGEN MUSEUM?
WELL... THERE'S A BUS BUT IT'S NOT THAT FAR, SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL GO BY FOOT.
IN FACT, THAT'S WHAT I RECOMMEND VISITORS DO
IT'S A BIT LESS THAN AN HOUR WALK.
MOREOVER, THE AREA AROUND HERE IS IDEAL FOR HIKING, ESPECIALLY ON A FINE DAY LIKE TODAY...

I GUESS THE BEST WAY IS TO WALK TO THE MUSEUM IN THE MORNING, AND THEN TAKE THE BUS BACK.
PEOPLE USUALLY LEAVE AROUND EIGHT O' CLOCK, RIGHT AFTER BREAKFAST
A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, EH?
YES.
DO YOU HAPPEN TO REMEMBER THIS GIRL?
UM ...
PLEASE! EVEN THE SMALLEST DETAIL WOULD HELP! JUST TRY TO REMEMBER!
14 YEARS? SORRY, BUT I CAN'T HELP YOU THERE... ;HAHA;
...14 YEARS AGO IN SEPTEMBER
SHE STAYED HERE...

...FOR TEN YEARS.
YOU SEE, I'VE ONLY BEEN HERE...
AFTERWARDS, I STOPPED AT ALL THE SHOPS LOCATED AROUND THE HOSTEL AND THE MUSEUM...
...BUT HOW COULD I EXPECT PEOPLE TO REMEMBER A GIRL FROM 14 YEARS AGO?

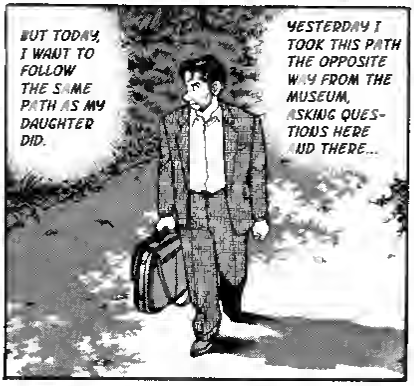

I KNEW THE ODDS WERE AGAINST ME... AFTER ALL, HER TRAIL IS ALREADY 14 YEARS OLD...
BUT NOW I'M FACING A DEAD END.
THE MUSEUM... THE YOUTH HOSTEL... I'VE FINALLY FOUND SAWAKO'S TRAIL.
長野駅
Nagano Sta.
19


... HOPE-LESS.
IT'S...
HOW COULD I POSSIBLY IDENTIFY THE PERSON SHE MET, THE PERSON WHO KILLED HER?
I NOW UNDER-STAND WHY THE POLICE WALKED OUT ON THE CASE...

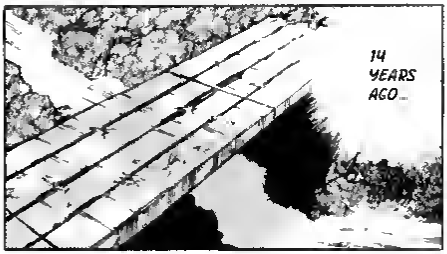
TWEET TWEET TWEET...
8:00 a.m.
May 9th, 1999
IN ANY CASE, I STILL DON'T HAVE ANY STRONG LEADS...
...THE ONLY THING THAT I CAN DO TODAY...
JUST LIKE YESTERDAY
...ON THE WAY TO THE MUSEUM.
...IS TRY TO FIND SOME CLUES

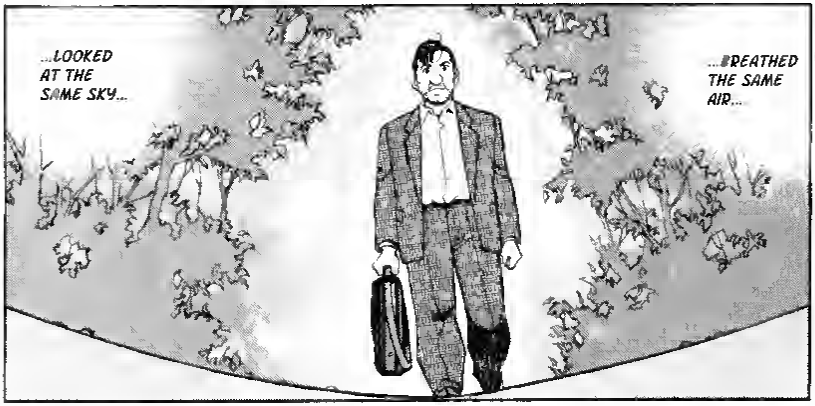
IT'S LIKE 14 YEARS AGO...
WHAT SPLENDID WEATHER

SAWAKO WALKED DOWN THIS PATH...


BUT TODAY, I WANT TO FOLLOW THE SAME PATH AS MY DAUGHTER DID.
YESTERDAY I TOOK THIS PATH THE OPPOSITE WAY FROM THE MUSEUM, ASKING QUESTIONS HERE AND THERE...

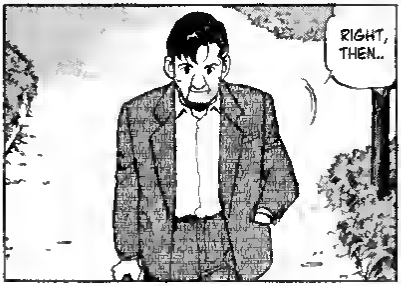
14 YEARS AGO, AROUND THIS TIME...





[1] LAKE OSAWA [2] KOGEN ART MUSEUM

A LAKE ON THE LEFT...?
MUSEUM ON THE RIGHT...


RIGHT, THEN..

WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
COME ON! HOLD MIT-CHAN'S HAND.

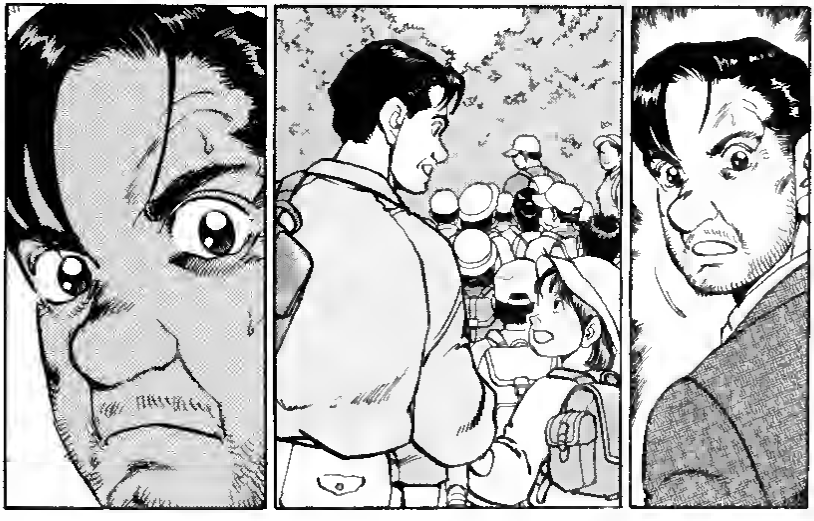
SHIN! STOP DAWDLING OR YOU'LL BE LEFT BEHIND!

COMIN'!

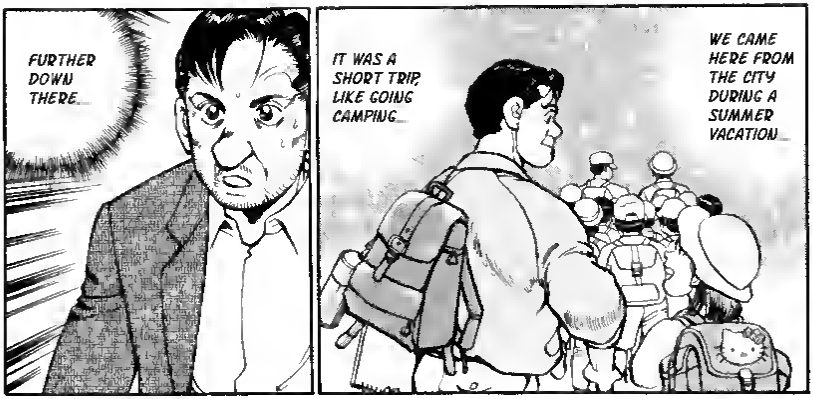
OVER HERE, EMI! A LITTLE BIT FASTER!
!
A SKETCH TRIP..?
BUT WHEN?
I... I'VE DONE THIS ..

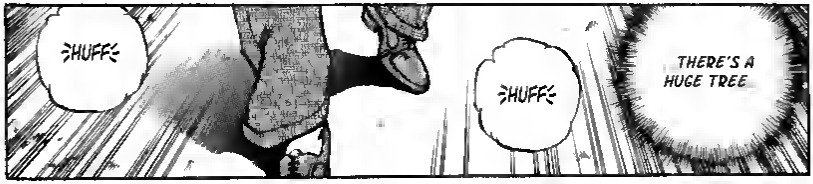
I CAN'T REMEMBER... IT WAS SUCH A LONG TIME AGO...

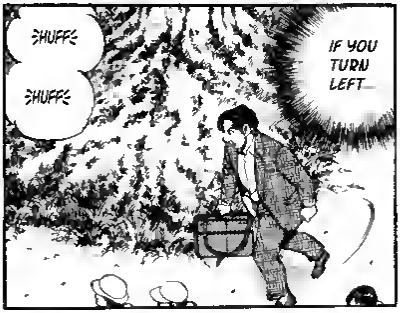
I HAVE THIS STRANGE FEELING... OF A DÉJÀ-VU ..
HUH?



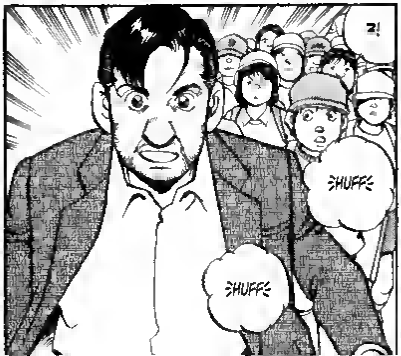
I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE...
WAIT A SECOND
...AND THE AREA LOOKS A BIT DIFFERENT NOW, BUT...
... THE PATH HAS BEEN ASPHALTED...


FURTHER DOWN THERE...
IT WAS A SHORT TRIP, LIKE GOING CAMPING...
WE CAME HERE FROM THE CITY DURING A SUMMER VACATION...


:HUFF:
:HUFF:
THERE'S A HUGE TREE...

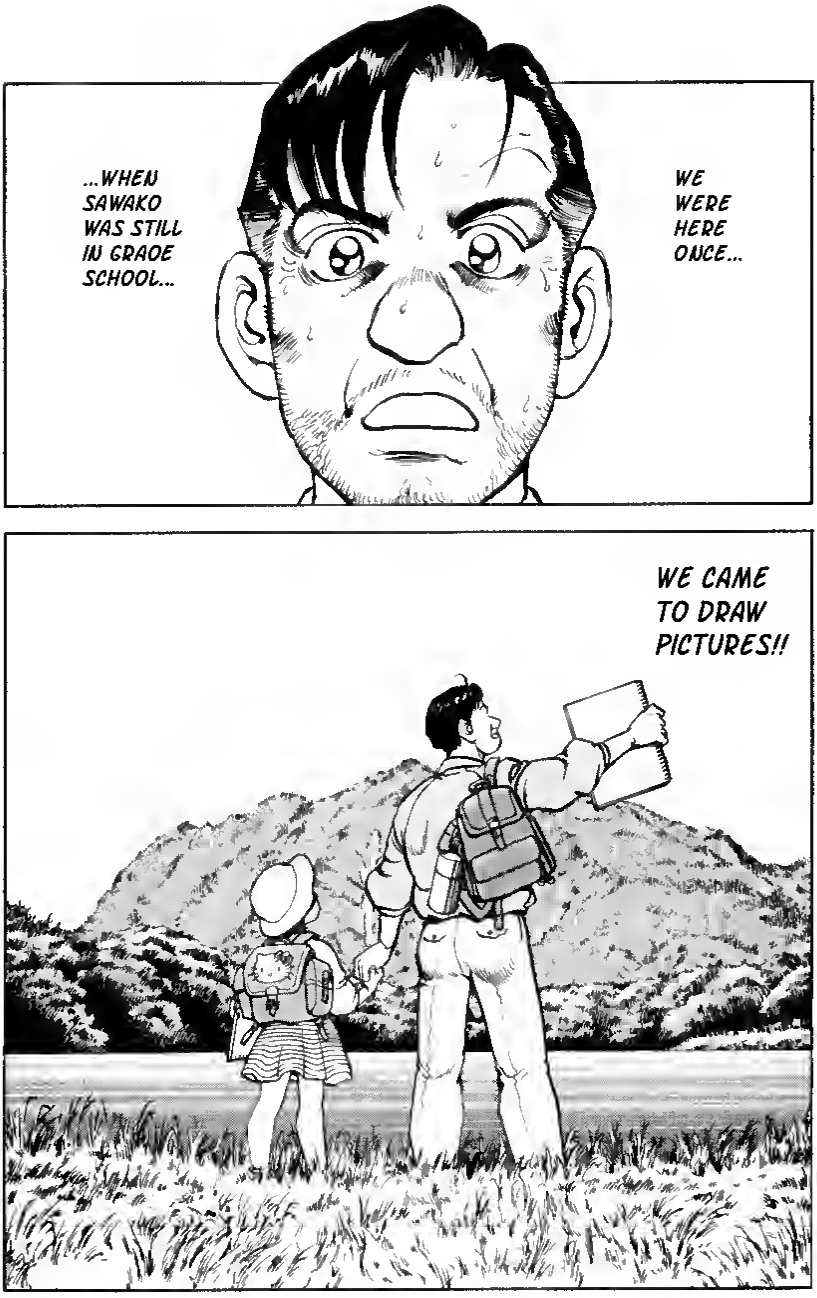

:HUFF:
:HUFF:
IF YOU TURN LEFT...

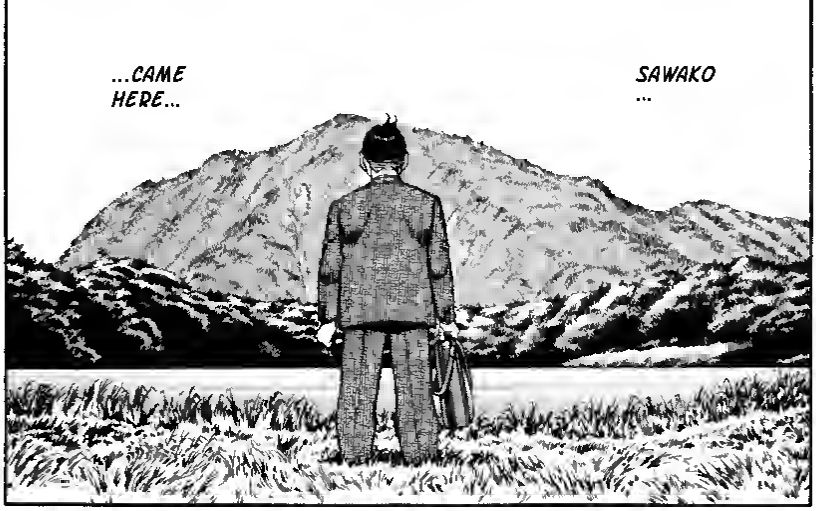
YES! I'M RIGHT!

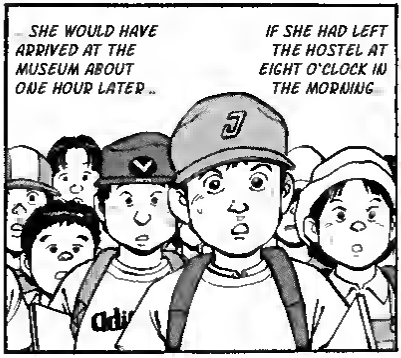

?!
:HUFF:
:HUFF:

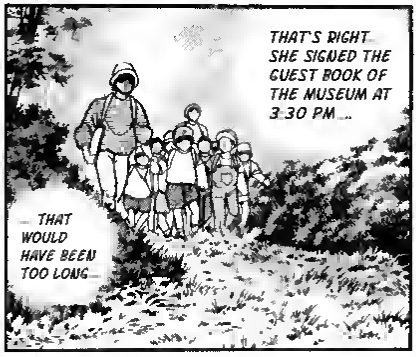
THAT'S IT!
...AND FOLLOW THE SMALL TRACK.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
!

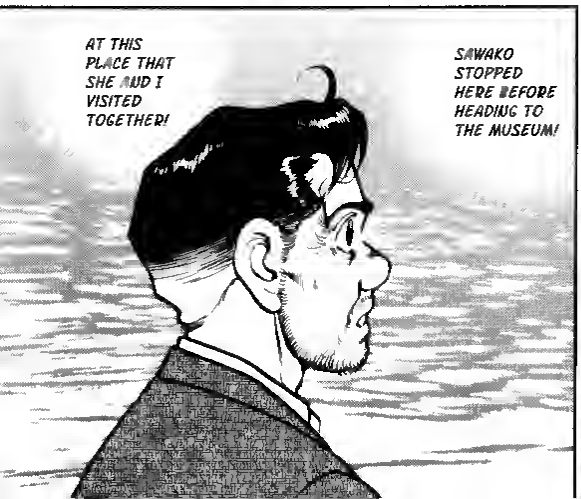
T-THIS IS THE PLACE...!!

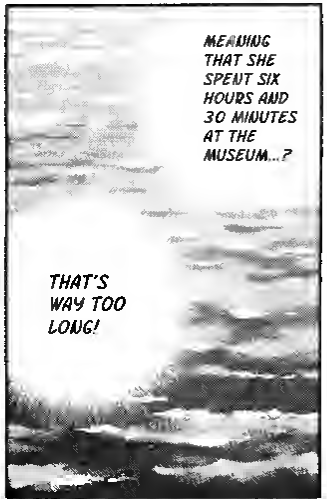

...WHEN SAWAKO WAS STILL IN GRADE SCHOOL...
WE WERE HERE ONCE...
WE CAME TO DRAW PICTURES!!

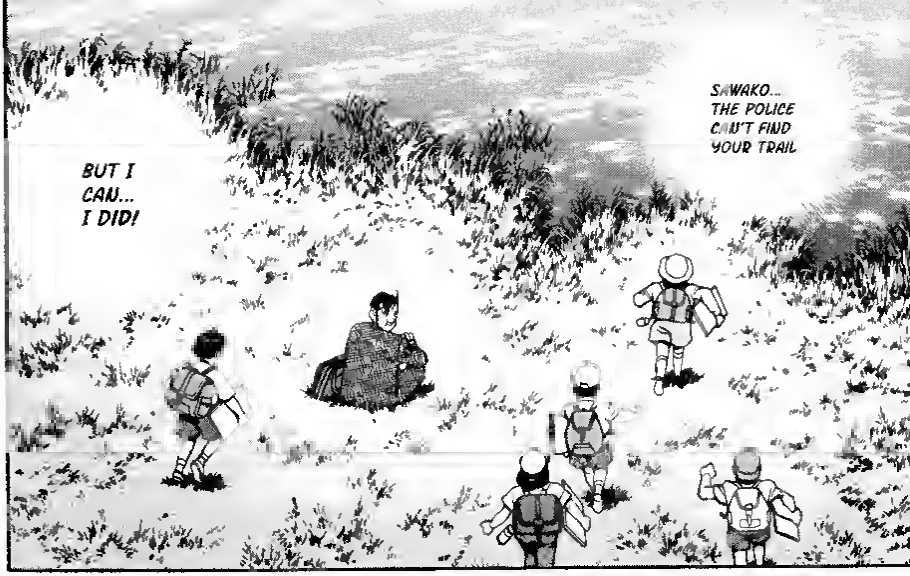

...CAME HERE...
SAWAKO ...

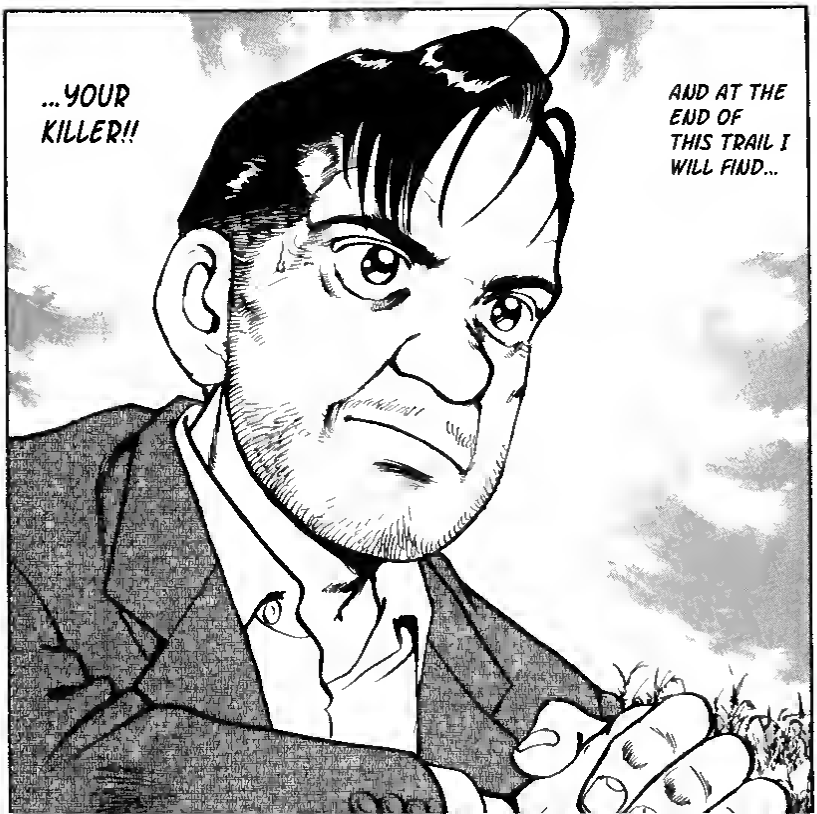

...SHE WOULD HAVE ARRIVED AT THE MUSEUM ABOUT ONE HOUR LATER...
IF SHE HAD LEFT THE HOSTEL AT EIGHT O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING


THAT'S RIGHT... SHE SIGNED THE GUEST BOOK OF THE MUSEUM AT 3:30 PM...
...THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO LONG...


AT THIS PLACE THAT SHE AND I VISITED TOGETHER!
SAWAKO STOPPED HERE BEFORE HEADING TO THE MUSEUM!


MEANING THAT SHE SPENT SIX HOURS AND 30 MINUTES AT THE MUSEUM...?
THAT'S WAY TOO LONG!

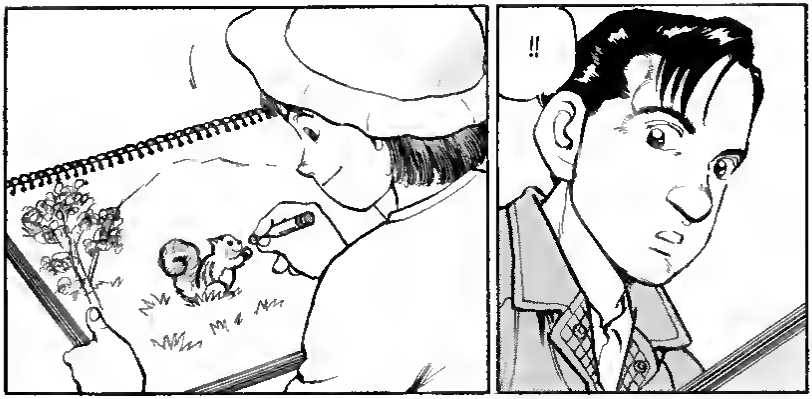

SAWAKO... THE POLICE CAN'T FIND YOUR TRAIL
BUT I CAN... I DID!

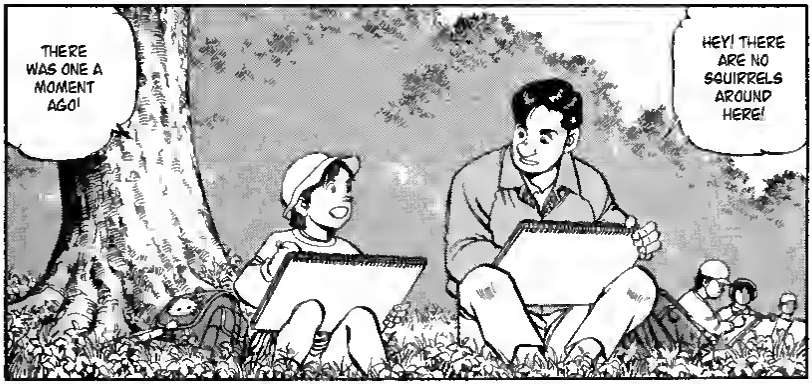

...YOUR KILLER!!
AND AT THE END OF THIS TRAIL I WILL FIND...

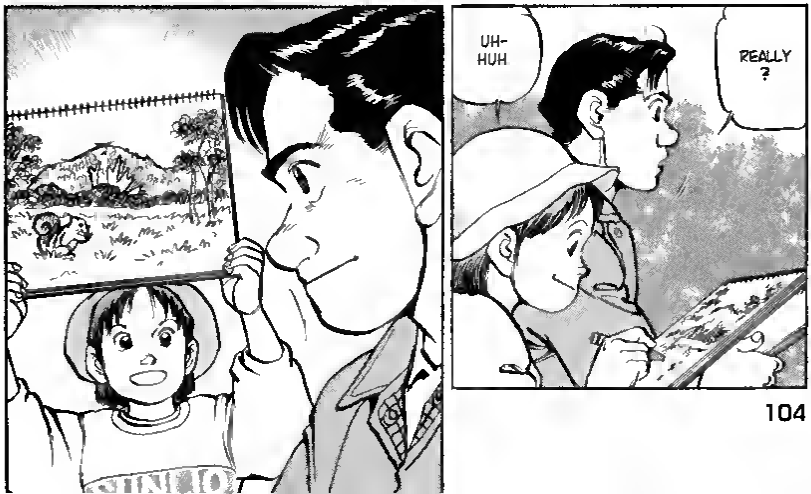
生存 Life

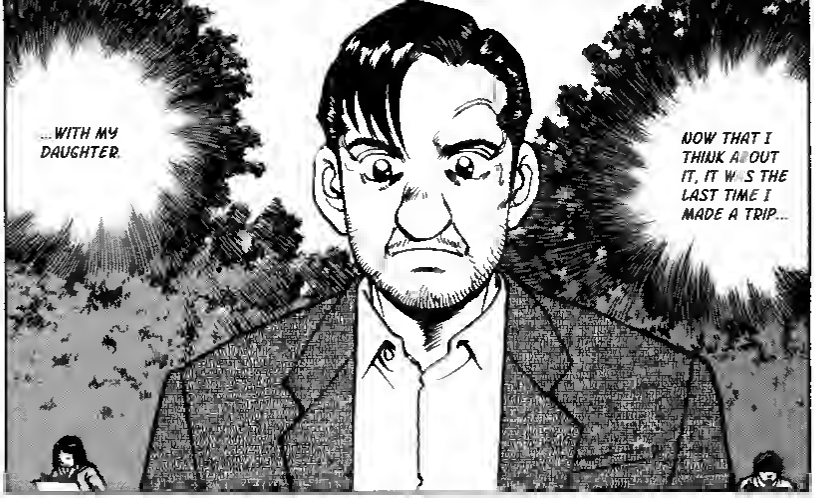
Fukumoto Nobuyuki ✻ Kawaguchi Kaiji

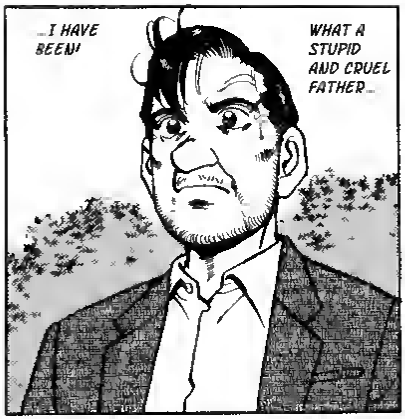
WHEN MY DAUGHTER WAS STILL IN GRADE SCHOOL.
DURING A SUMMER VACATION
IT WAS
...TO DRAW!!
WE CAME HERE TOGETHER..

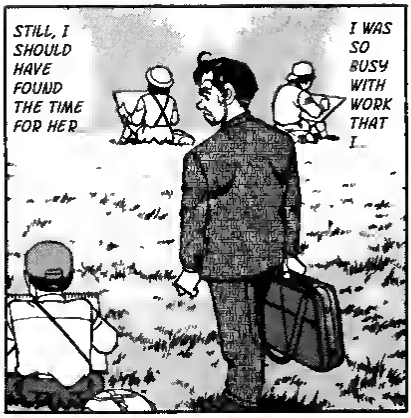

!!


THERE WAS ONE A MOMENT AGO!
HEY! THERE ARE NO SQUIRRELS AROUND HERE!


UH-HUH
REALLY ?

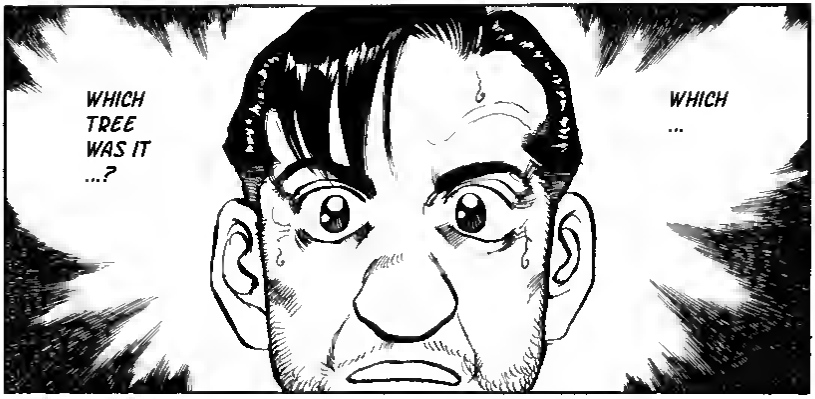

...WITH MY DAUGHTER.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IT WAS THE LAST TIME I MADE A TRIP...

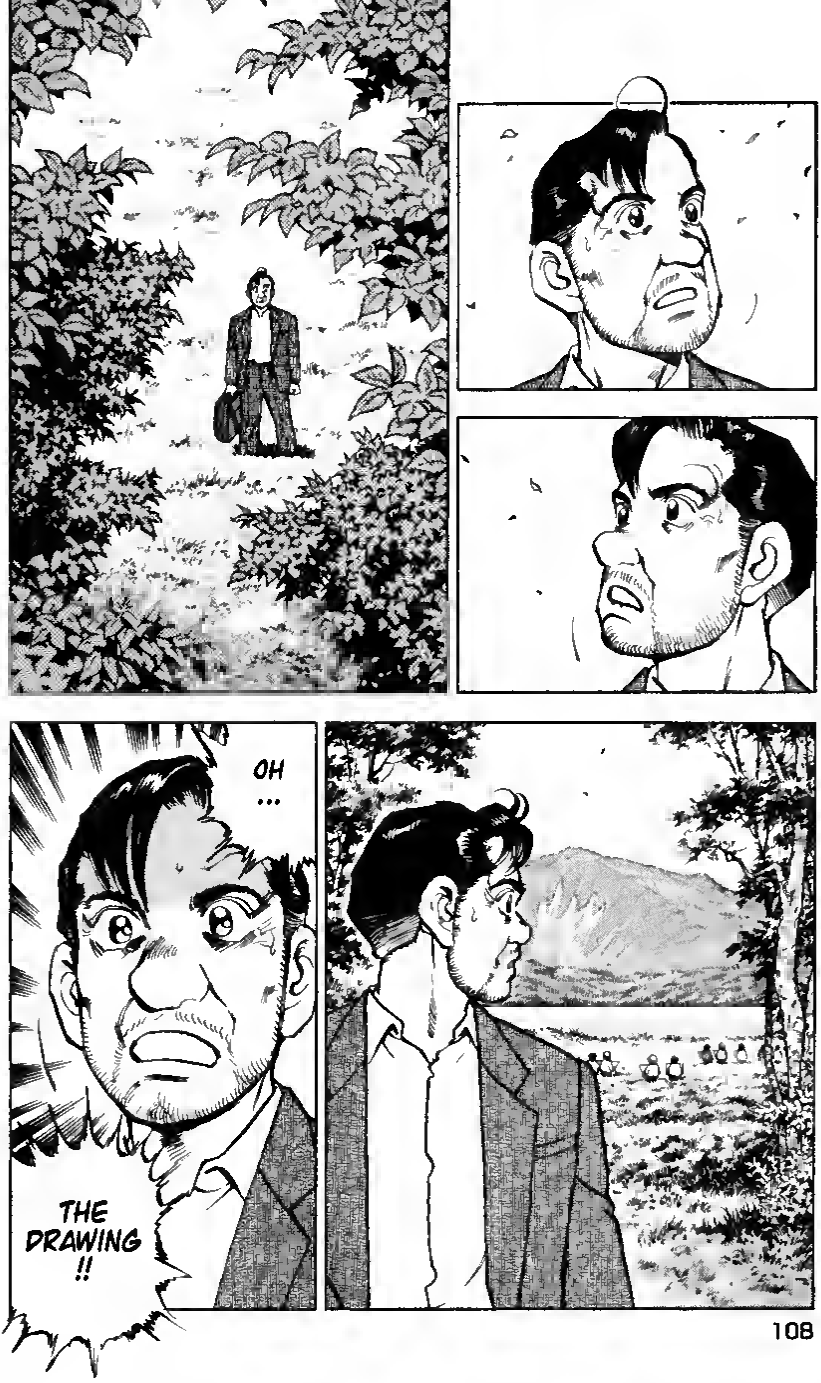

...I HAVE BEEN!
WHAT A STUPID AND CRUEL FATHER...


STILL, I SHOULD HAVE FOUND THE TIME FOR HER...
I WAS SO BUSY WITH WORK THAT I...

ヒュ
?!

OH, GOOD IDEA!
DADDY! CAN I PUT IN SOME ACORNS?
WHERE DO WE BURY IT?
THIS WILL BE OUR TIME CAPSULE TO REMEMBER THIS DAY!
AND THE FOLDED CANDY WRAPPERS!
LET'S PUT IN THE CANDY BOX TOO, THEN!
YES! THIS WAY WE WON'T FORGET IT!
HERE... RIGHT UNDER THIS TREE!


WHICH TREE WAS IT ...?
WHICH ...

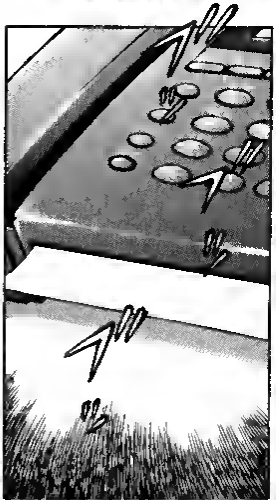

OH
...
THE
DRAWING
!!

...SHOWED EXACTLY THIS LAKE!
ONE OF THE DRAWINGS I FOUND WHILE SEARCHING HER ROOM...
I'M SURE OF IT!
THAT'S IT!

I DON'T CARE, JUST GO INSIDE!
YES! THE KEY IS UNDER THE FLOWER POT IN THE ENTRANCE-WAY. TAKE IT AND OPEN THE DOOR.

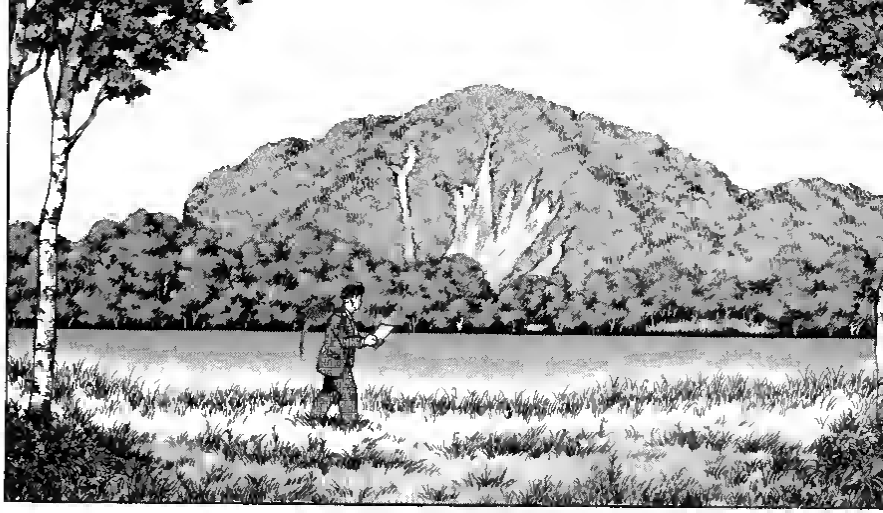
THANK YOU!!
COME ON! THERE'S ONLY ONE DRAWING LIKE THAT!

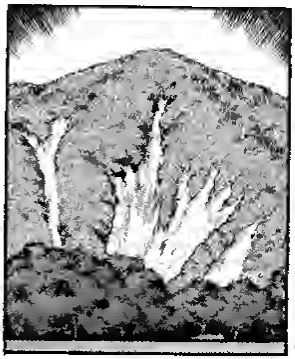
IN MY ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR, THERE'S A DRAWING...
A DRAWING OF A LAKE MADE BY A CHILD...

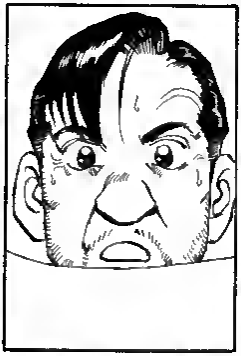


UM... WHAT'S YOUR FAX NUMBER ...?

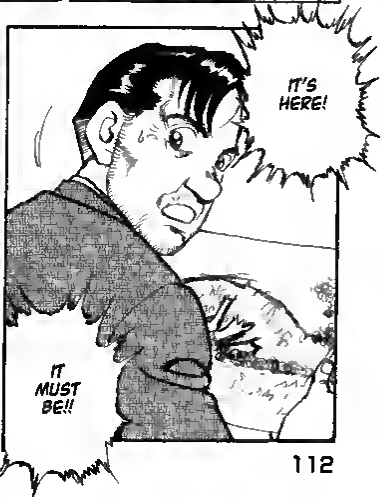
THIS IS IT!!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
..I WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE FINDING THE PLACE AGAIN!
WITH THIS DRAWING





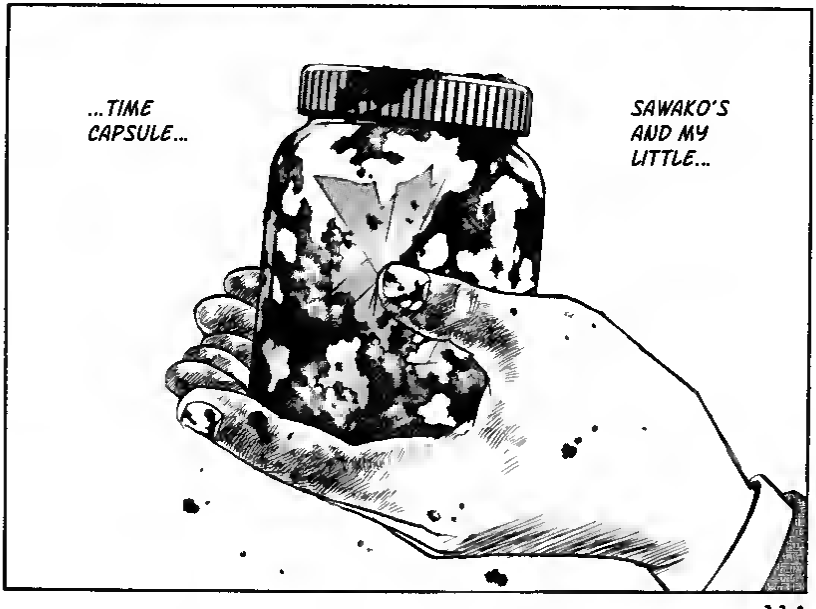


SO THAT'S THE TREE!

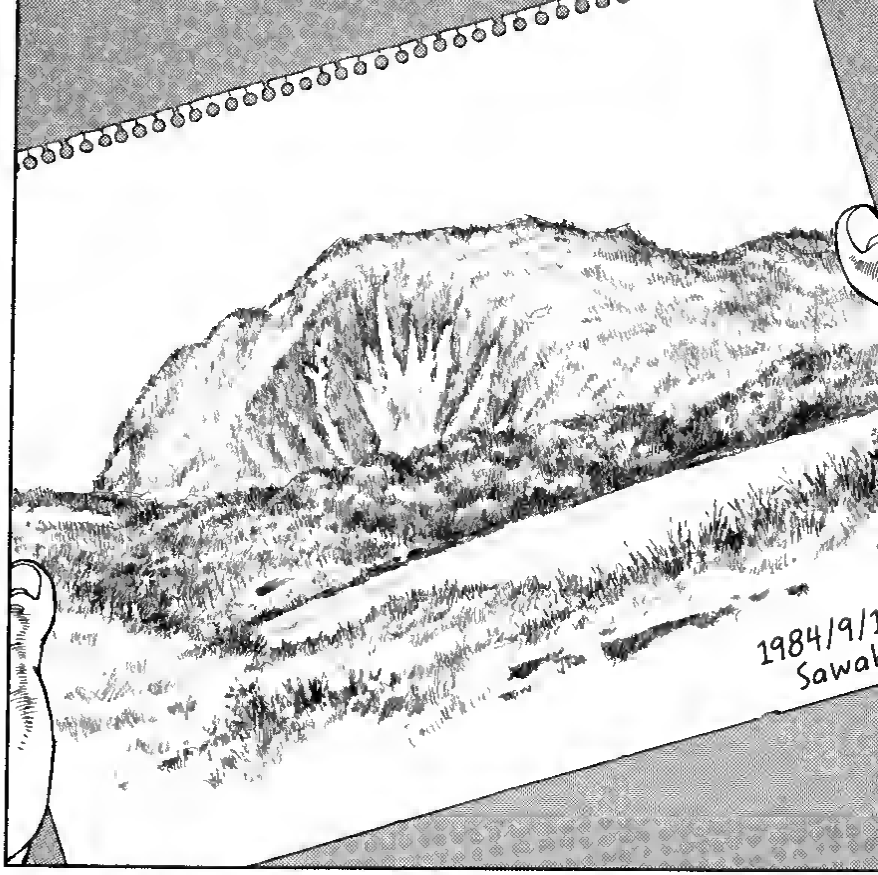

IT'S HERE!
IT MUST BE!!

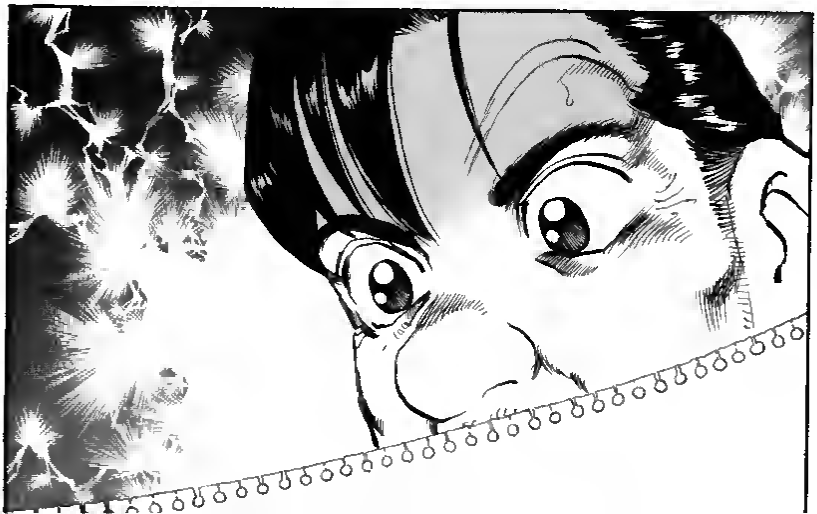
IF NOTHING HAS CHANGED SINCE...
...AND NOBODY HAS DUG IT UP...
...THEN IT MUST STILL BE HERE!!
!!

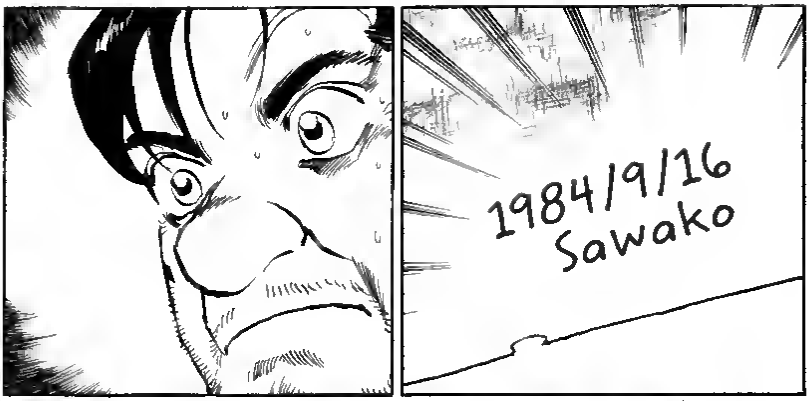
HERE IT IS!!


...TIME CAPSULE...
SAWAKO'S AND MY LITTLE...

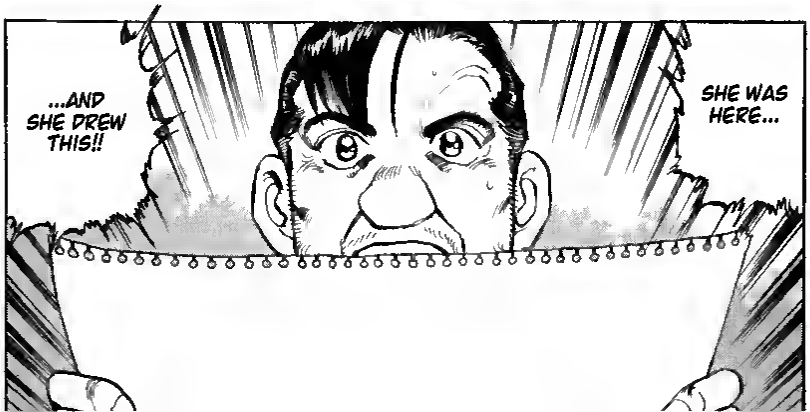
HMM?
UNBELIEV-ABLE...
IT'S STILL HERE AFTER ALL THOSE YEARS...
?
WHAT... IS THIS?

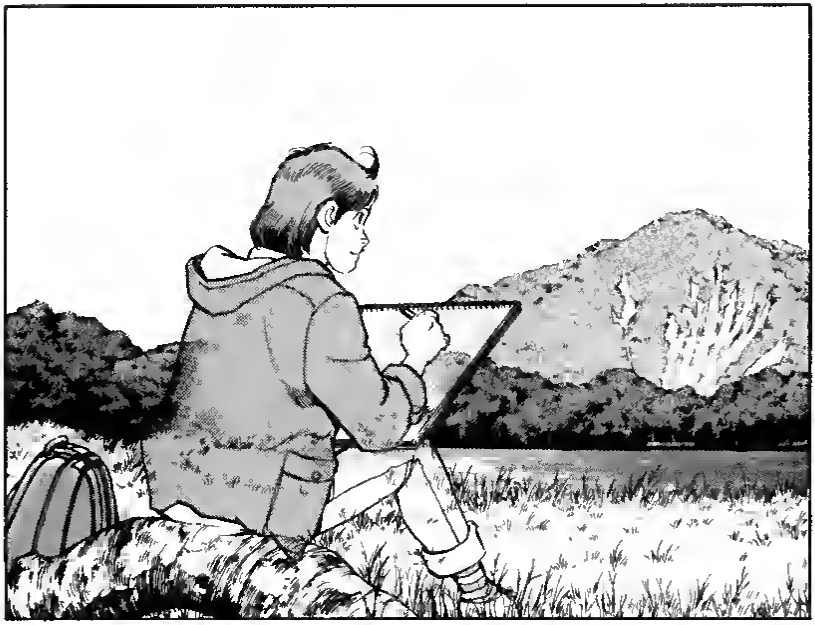

1984/9/1
Sawa

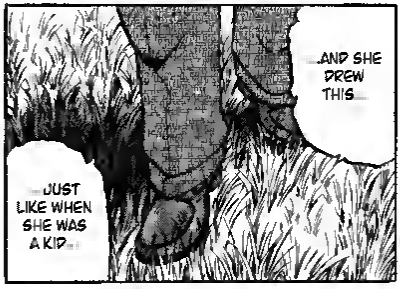


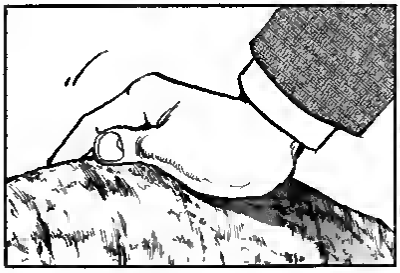

1984/9/16
Sawako

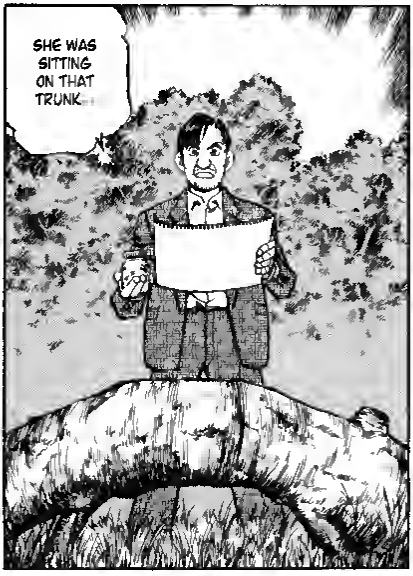
14 YEARS AGO!!
I KNEW IT!! SHE WAS HERE!!

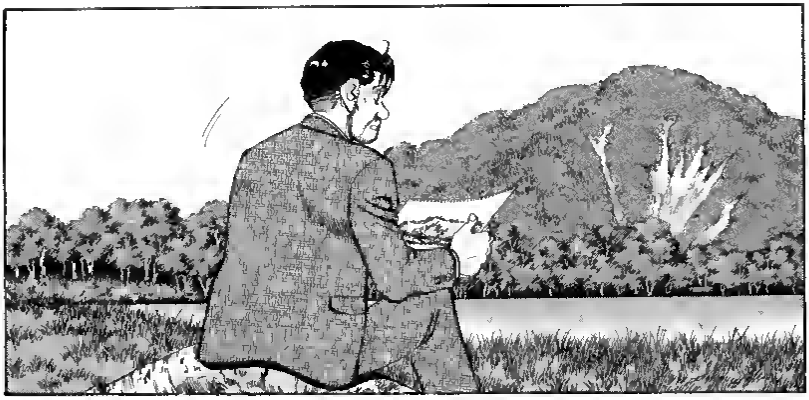

...AND SHE DREW THIS!!
SHE WAS HERE...




...AND SHE DREW THIS...
...JUST LIKE WHEN SHE WAS A KID...

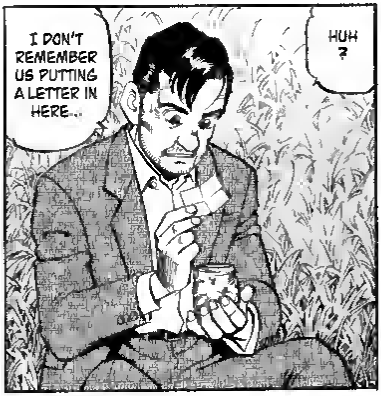



SHE WAS SITTING ON THAT TRUNK...

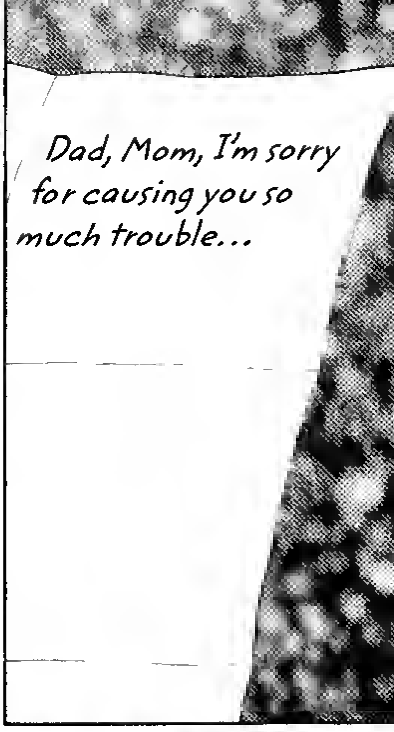


?!

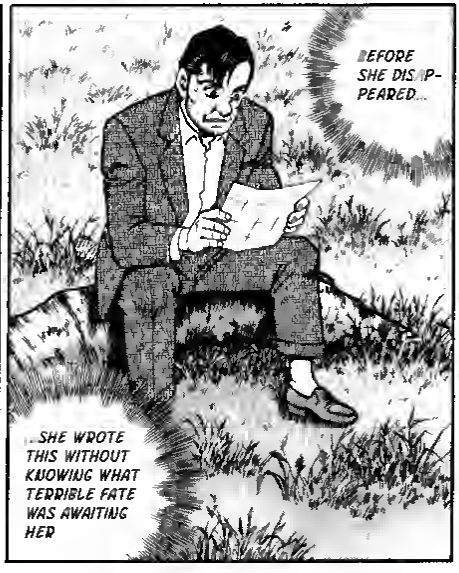
SAWAKO
...


I DON'T REMEMBER US PUTTING A LETTER IN HERE...
HUH ?

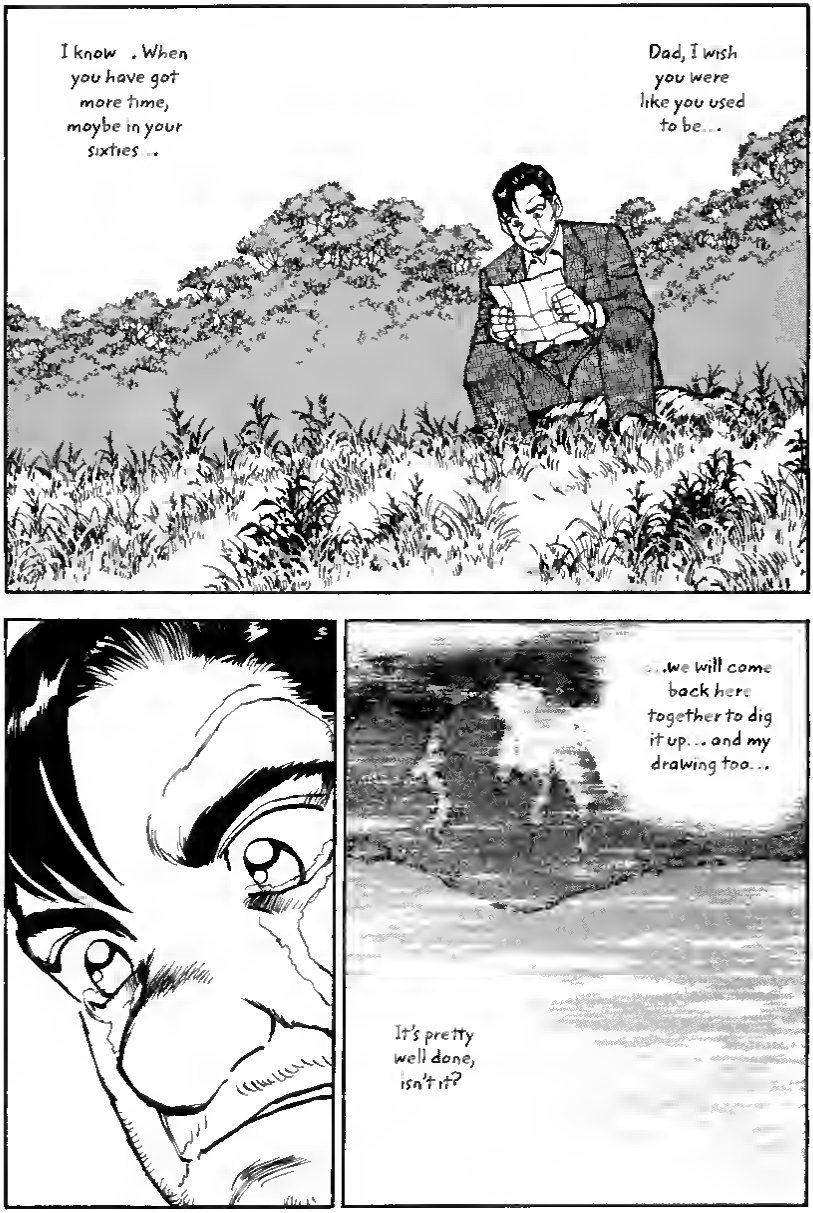
THIS...
THIS IS...!!

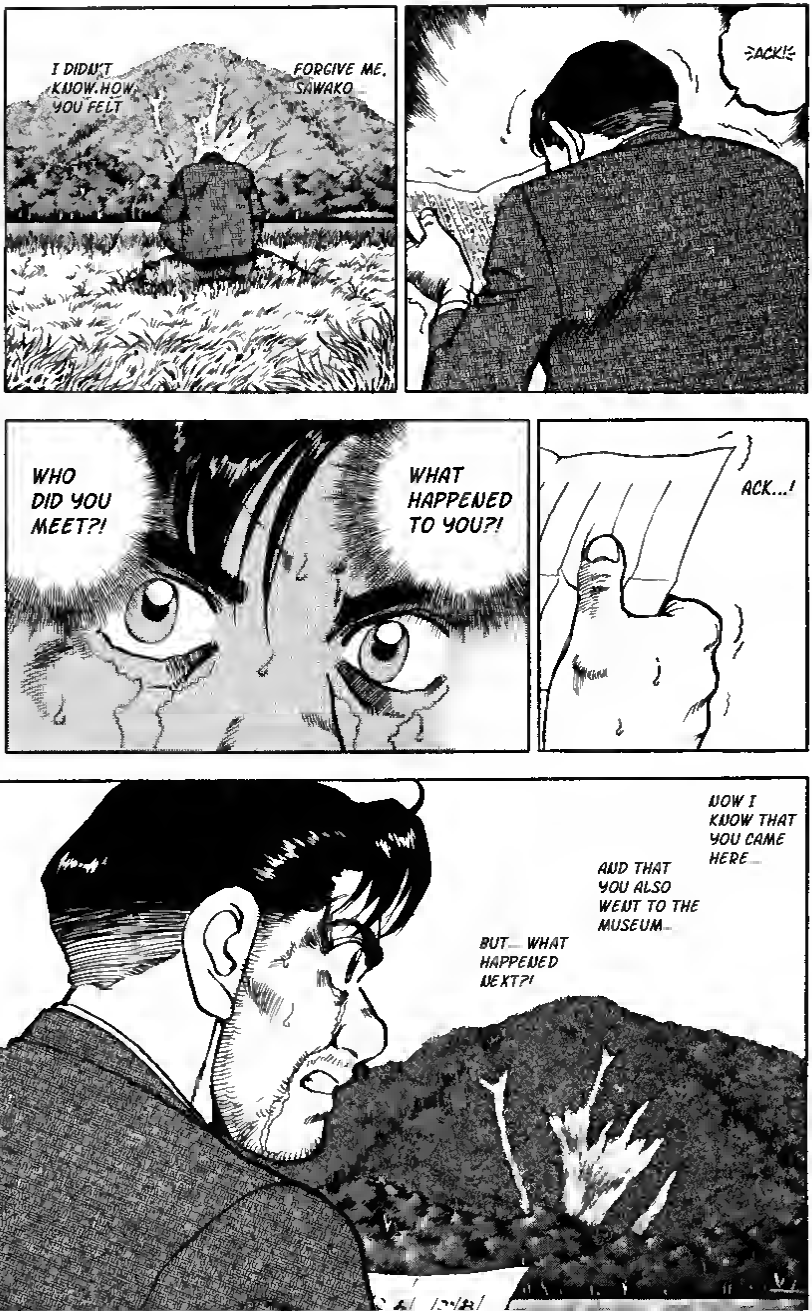

Dad, Mom, I'm sorry for causing you so much trouble...

THIS IS... SAWAKO'S VOICE!

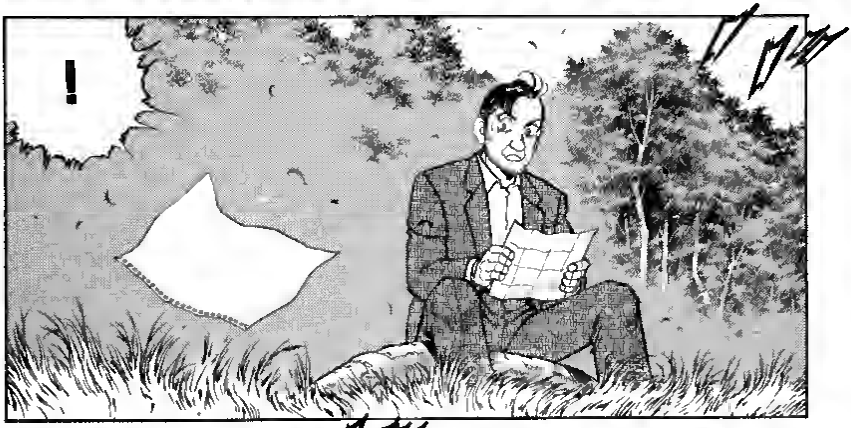

BEFORE SHE DIS-P-PEARED...
...SHE WROTE THIS WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT TERRIBLE FATE WAS AWAITING HER

It's one of my most beautiful memories ...
We spent that day together, you and I...
We buried acorns in a time capsule...
We both come here when I was in the fourth grade.
Dad, do you remember Lake Osawa?

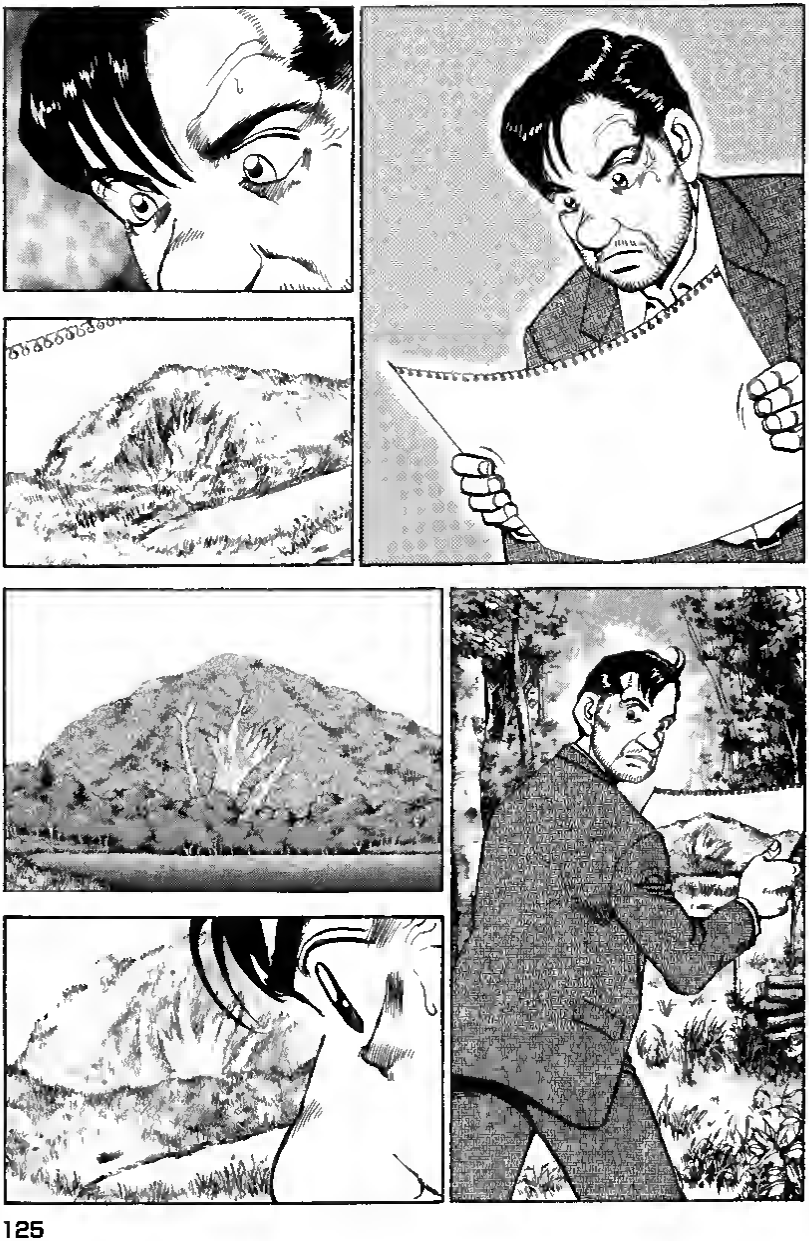

I know . When you have got more time, maybe in your sixties...
Dad, I wish you were like you used to be...
...we will come back here together to dig it up... and my drawing too...
It's pretty well done, isn't it?

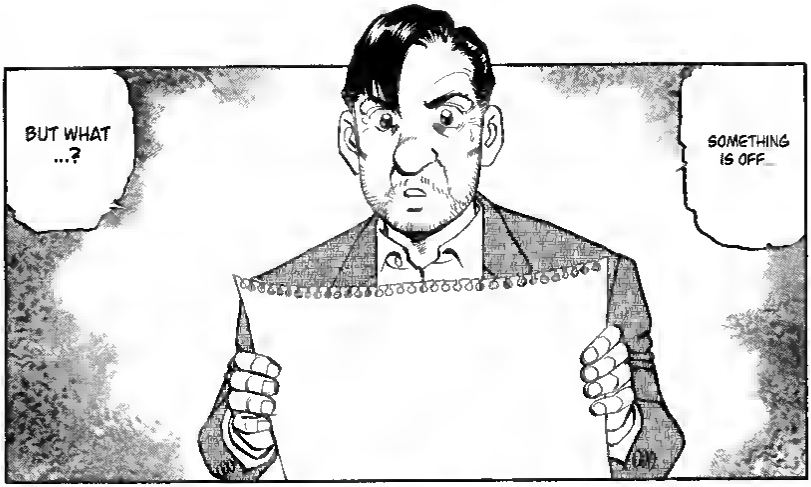

I DIDN'T KNOW HOW YOU FELT
FORGIVE ME, SAWAKO...
GACK!
WHO DID YOU MEET?!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!
ACK...!
NOW I KNOW THAT YOU CAME HERE...
AND THAT YOU ALSO WENT TO THE MUSEUM...
BUT... WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?!

ONE MORE TIME, SAWAKO!! PLEASE LEND DADDY SOME STRENGTH!!


!

AH ...!
OH!!




BUT WHAT ...?
SOMETHING IS OFF...

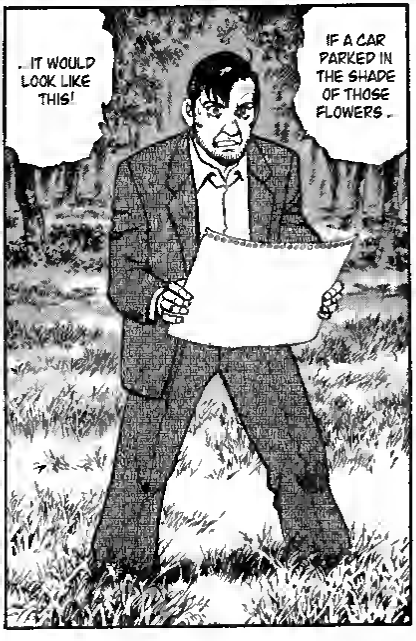
HUH ?

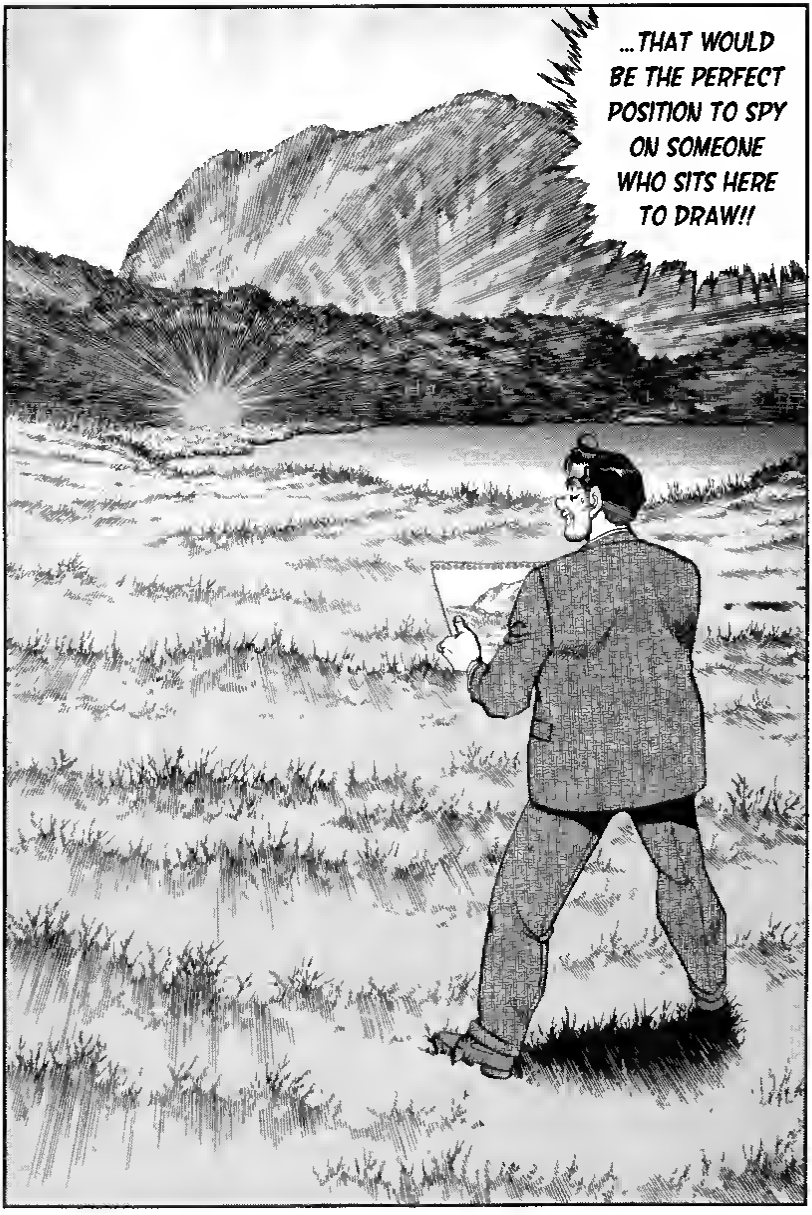
BEHIND THOSE FLOWERS...

BLUE FLOWERS ?
THERE WERE FLOWERS WITH THIS COLOR BLOOMING THERE 14 YEARS AGO?
WHAT IS THIS BLUE?
IT'S NOT THE SKY!
I'D BUY IT IF IT WAS WHITE OR A DARKER BLUE, BUT THIS...
IMPOSSIBLE, THERE ARE NO FLOWERS WITH SUCH COLOR..!
COULD THIS BE...

...A CAR ?!

ASSUMING THAT IT IS A CAR...
...THEN...


IF A CAR PARKED IN THE SHAPE OF THOSE FLOWERS...
...IT WOULD LOOK LIKE THIS!


...THAT WOULD BE THE PERFECT POSITION TO SPY ON SOMEONE WHO SITS HERE TO DRAW!!

MEANING THAT... SAWAKO DREW HER KILLER'S CAR... WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING?!

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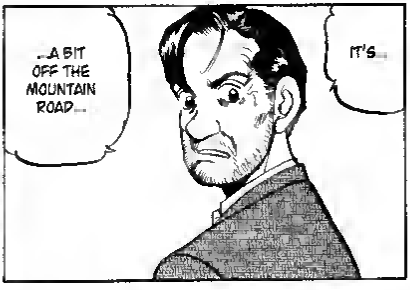
Life
Fukumoto Nobuyuki × Kawaguchi Kaiji

HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HERE I AM...
HUFF!
HUFF!
IT'S HERE ...!!

AND IF YOU LOOK AT THE LAKE FROM HERE...
IT'S JUST THE RIGHT WIDTH TO PARK A CAR...!

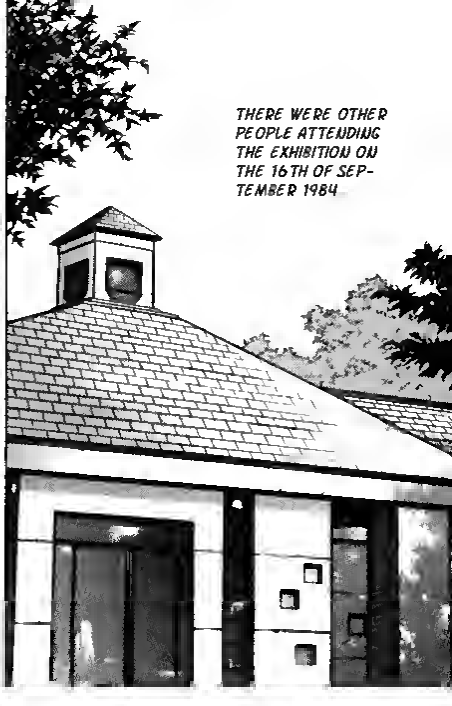
BESIDES ..

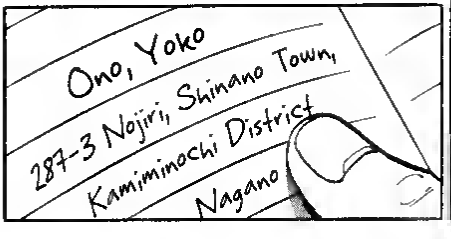

..A BIT OFF THE MOUNTAIN ROAD...
IT'S...

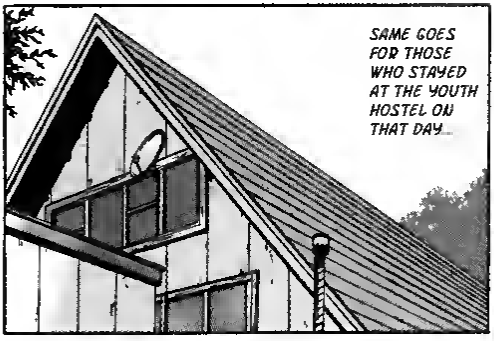
BUT A CAR COULD COME THROUGH .

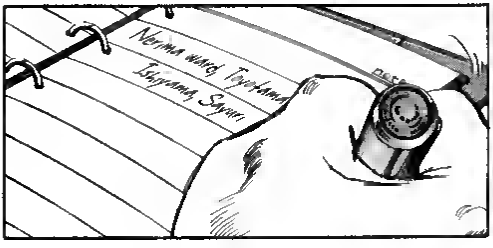
THIS BLUE SHADOW DRAWN BY SAWAKO...
COULD IT BE HER KILLER'S CAR..?
...IF A CAR DRIVES THIS FAR IN, IT'LL BE INVISIBLE FROM THE ROAD...
...AND THUS WON'T AROUSE ANY SUSPICION!!
...!
IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE!

I'M GOING TO TRY TO CONTACT AS MANY OF THEM AS POSSIBLE!

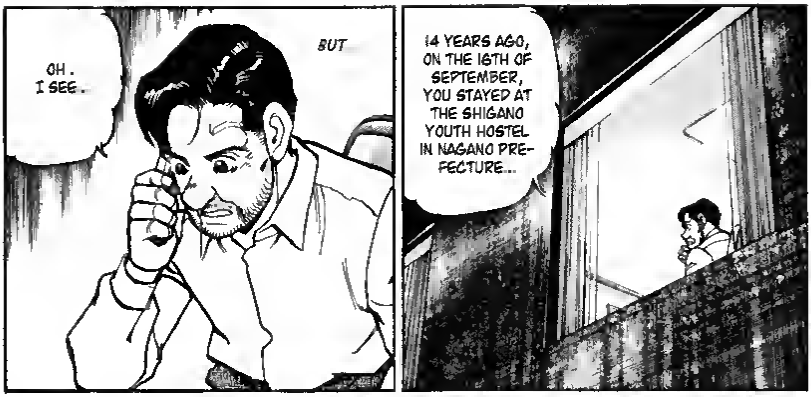

THERE WERE OTHER PEOPLE ATTENDING THE EXHIBITION ON THE 16TH OF SEPTEMBER 1984.


Ono, Yoko
287-3 Nojiri, Shinano Town,
Kamiminochi District
Nagano


SAME GOES FOR THOSE WHO STAYED AT THE YOUTH HOSTEL ON THAT DAY.


Nojima ward, Toyohama
Sayuri Sayuri

I'M GOING TO MOVE FORWARD STEP BY STEP ACCORDING TO WHAT I ALREADY KNOW!
HELLO, COULD I SPEAK TO SAYURI ISHIYAMA PLEASE?
I'M SORRY TO DISTURB YOU BUT...
WITH A BIT OF LUCK...
REALLY? MY APOLOGIES FOR THE DISTURBANCE...
...AND IF GOD IS ON MY SIDE, MAYBE I...
ピ ピ ピ


OH. I SEE.
BUT
14 YEARS AGO, ON THE 16TH OF SEPTEMBER, YOU STAYED AT THE SHIGANO YOUTH HOSTEL IN NAGANO PREFECTURE...

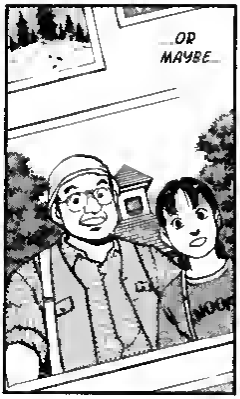
IT'S EXTREMELY UNLIKELY THAT THEY STILL REMEMBER...
..14 YEARS HAVE GONE BY...

PHOTOS ...!!
DON'T REMEMBER
NEVER-THELESS, EVEN IF PEOPLE
"THERE ARE ALWAYS SOME KINDS OF RECORDS

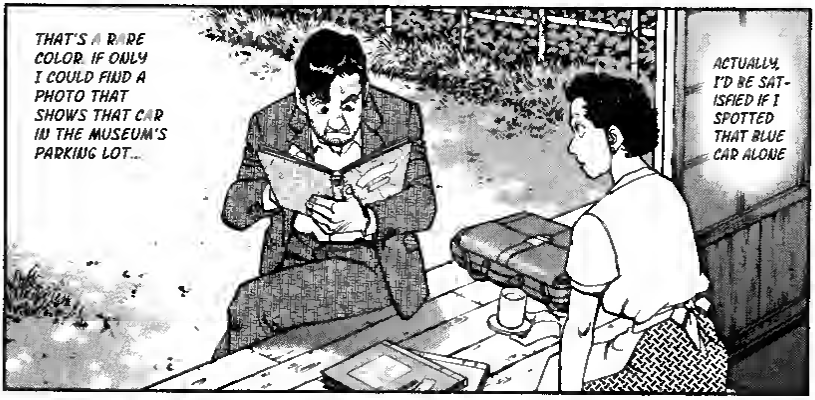
IF I MANAGE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THOSE PEOPLE ..

THERE HAS TO BE SOME PEOPLE WHO TOOK PHOTOS AT THE MUSEUM, THE HOSTEL OR IN THE SURROUNDING AREA...

...HER KILLER WITH HER...


...OR MAYBE...

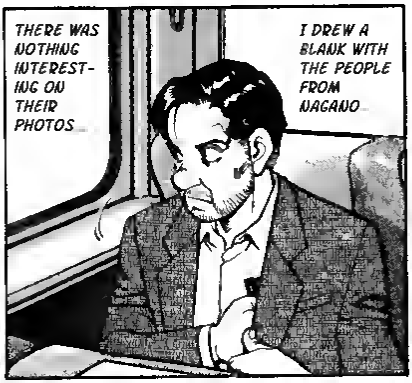
SHE COULD BE IN ONE OF THE PHOTOS' BACK-GROUND...


THAT'S A RARE COLOR. IF ONLY I COULD FIND A PHOTO THAT SHOWS THAT CAR IN THE MUSEUM'S PARKING LOT...
ACTUALLY, I'D BE SATISFIED IF I SPOTTED THAT BLUE CAR ALONE

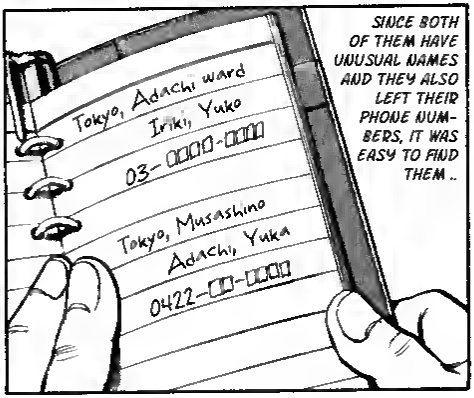
...INCREASE THE PROBABILITY THAT IT WAS INDEED THE KILLER'S CAR!!
LBUM

...IT WOULD AT LEAST...

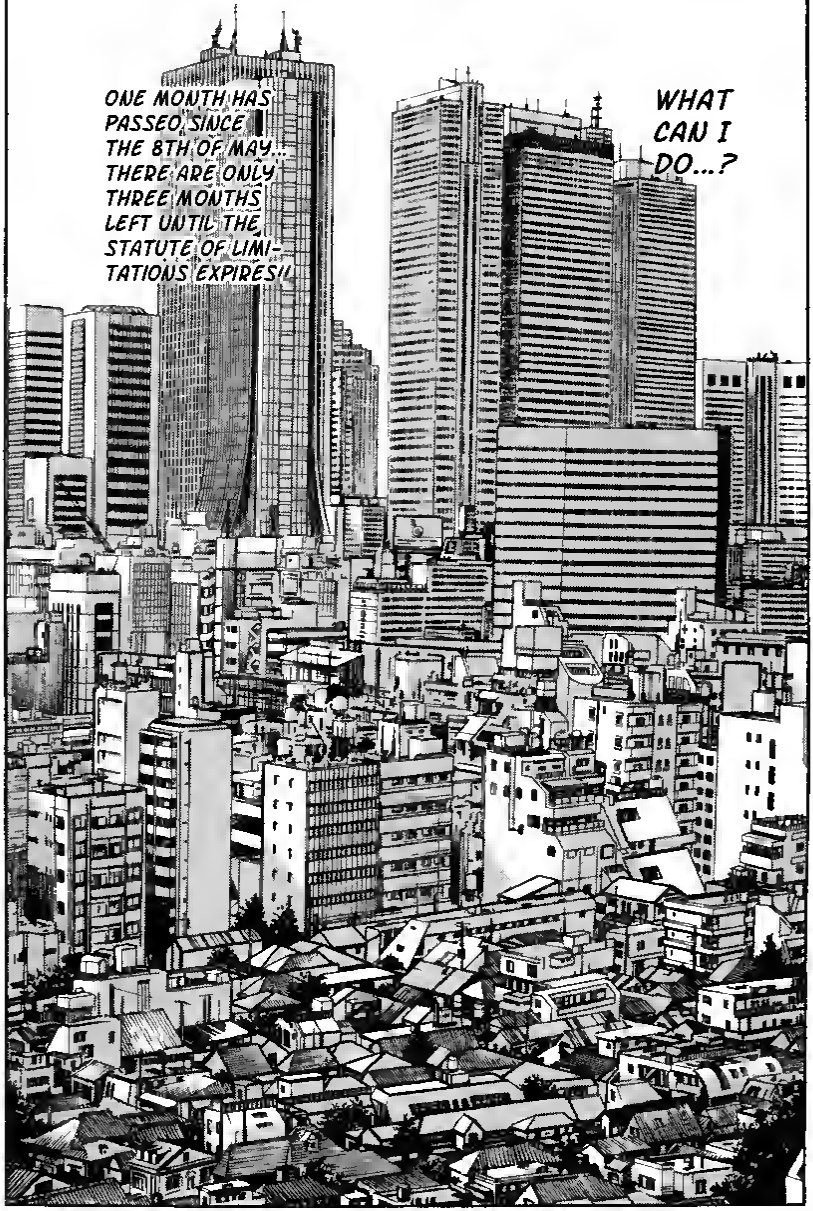
MY LAST HOPE LIES WITH THESE TWO WOMEN FROM TOKYO...


THERE WAS NOTHING INTERESTING ON THEIR PHOTOS...
I DREW A BLANK WITH THE PEOPLE FROM NAGANO...

LET ME FIND SOMETHING I CAN USE.
PLEASE GOD...

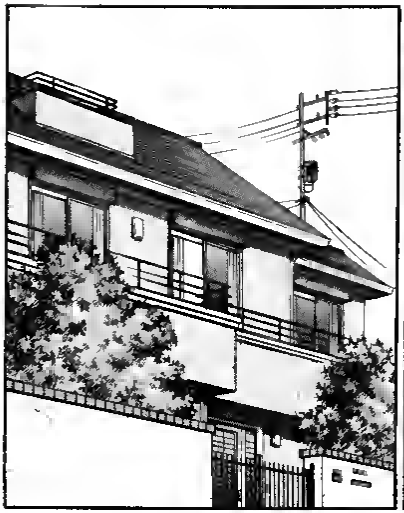

Tokyo, Adachi ward
Iriki, Yuko
03-□□□□-□□□□
Tokyo, Musashino
Adachi, Yuka
0422-□□-□□□□
SINCE BOTH OF THEM HAVE UNUSUAL NAMES AND THEY ALSO LEFT THEIR PHONE NUMBERS, IT WAS EASY TO FIND THEM..

WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW? WHAT CAN I DO?
THAT'S IT I HAVE EXHAUSTED ALL MY LEADS
BOTH MRS IRIKI AND MRS ADACHI TOOK PHOTOS BUT
I COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING THAT WOULD HELP ME

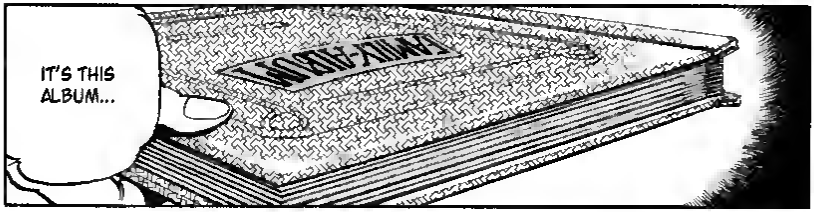

ONE MONTH HAS PASSED SINCE THE 8TH OF MAY... THERE ARE ONLY THREE MONTHS LEFT UNTIL THE STATUTE OF LIMI-TATIONS EXPIRES!!
WHAT CAN I DO...?

MR TAKEDA! YOUR MEDICINE!
I'M COMING!
THANK YOU
I HOPE YOU WILL FEEL BETTER
IT MUST BE THANKS TO SAWAKO'S STRENGTH ..!
MY BODY IS HOLDING UP BETTER THAN I THOUGHT

rrr
rrrrr
!!
TAKEDA SPEAKING!
Hello, this is Mrs Adachi. We met last month.
I'm calling you regarding the photos taken by my friend...
WHAT ?!
REALLY?! I'M COMING RIGHT AWAY!!

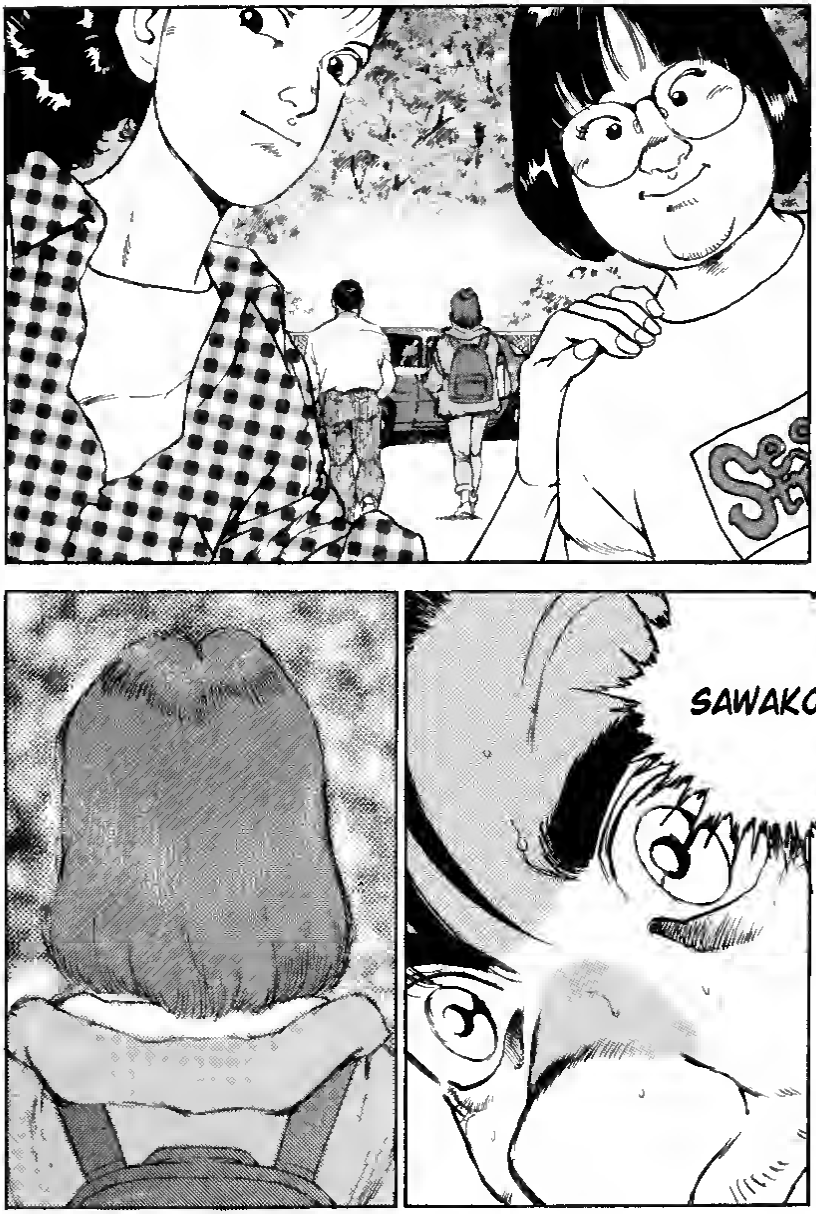


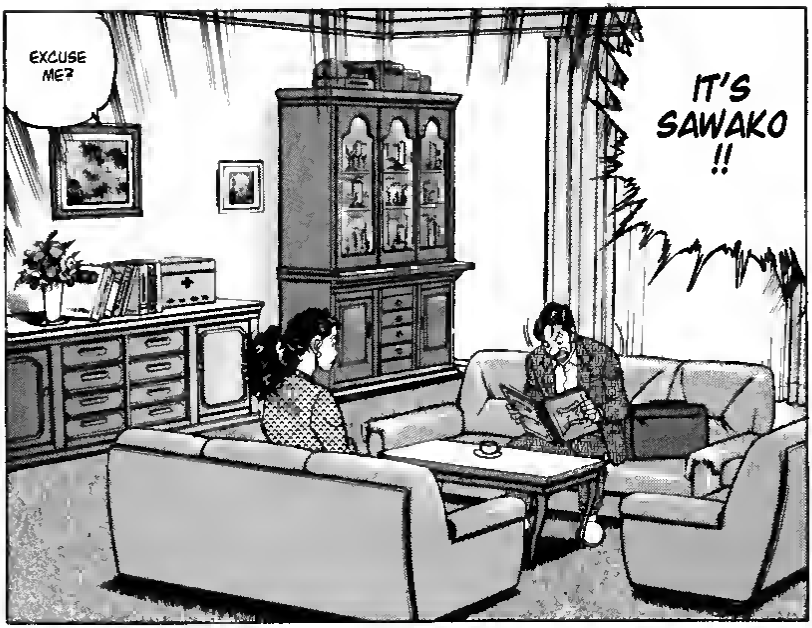
THANK GOD! I GAVE HER MY BUSINESS CARD IN CASE SHE RECALLED SOMETHING!!


IT'S THIS ALBUM...

THANK YOU. IF I MAY...

HMM?

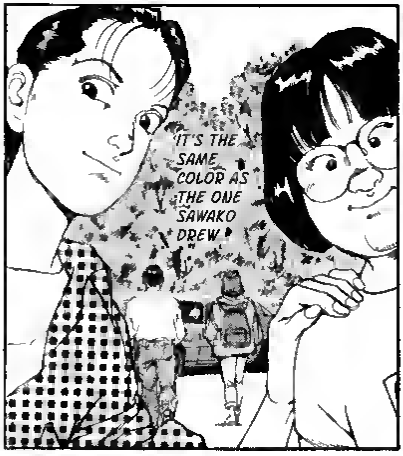

SAWAKO!!

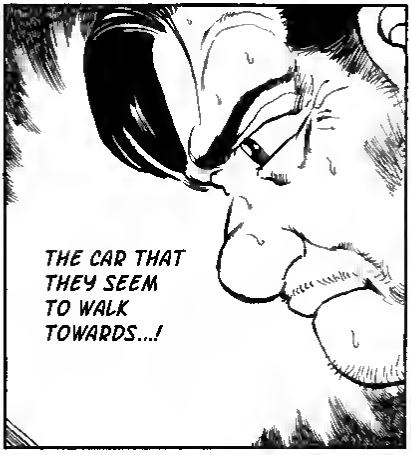

EXCUSE ME?
IT'S SAWAKO !!

... THIS MAN WHO HAS HIS BACK TO THE CAMERA... I CAN'T SEE HIS FACE BUT...

I DID IT, SAWAKO!!

IS HE THE KILLER?!


IT'S THE SAME COLOR AS THE ONE SAWAKO DREW!

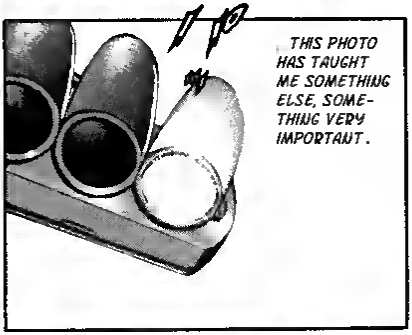

THE CAR THAT THEY SEEM TO WALK TOWARDS...!

THIS CANNOT BE A COINCI-DENCE!
A CAR PAINTED IN AZURE... NO, IT'S MORE LIKE TUR-QUOISE...
BUT JUDGING FROM THE SHAPE I CAN TELL IT'S A
THE PHOTO IS A BIT BLURRY... IT'S DIFFI-CULT TO MAKE OUT THE CAR MODEL...
...SEDAN!

IT'S A HUGE STEP FORWARD FOR ME! EVEN TWO STEPS!!
ABSO-LUTELY!
Y-YOU'RE WELCOME
THANK YOU... THANK YOU SO MUCH!
IS IT REALLY GOING TO HELP YOU?
BUT THIS PHOTO...
I'M CONFI-DENT THAT THAT CAR BELONGED TO THE KILLER!
FINALLY...

AT ANY RATE...
ALL RIGHT, LET'S THINK. THE NEXT STEP ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY--HOW TO TRACK DOWN THE KILLER'S CAR?

SAWAKO WOULD NEVER HAVE GOT IN A STRANGER'S CAR.


THIS PHOTO HAS TAUGHT ME SOMETHING ELSE, SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT.

THIS MAN...

THIS MAN WHOSE FACE I DON'T SEE...

...SHE KNEW HIM!!

HE MUST BE SOMEONE WHO LIVED IN TOKYO, SOMEONE MY DAUGHTER WAS ACQUAINTED WITH!!

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Fukumoto Nobuyuki ✕ Kawaguchi Kaiji

生存

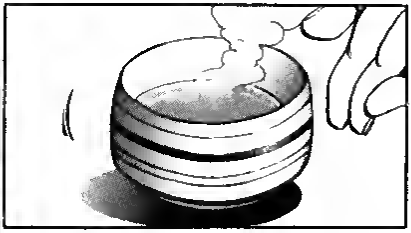
Life

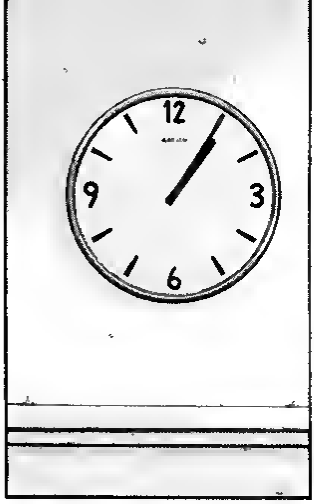
Fukumoto Nobuyuki × Kawaguchi Kaiji

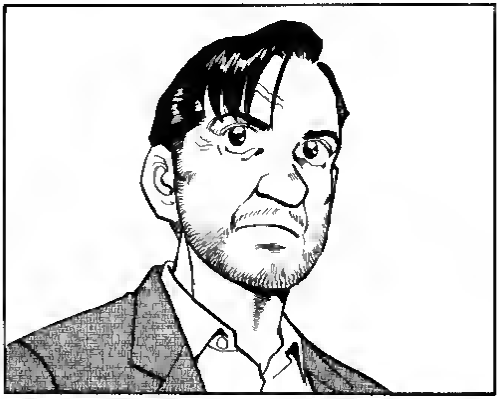
Nagano prefecture, N City's Central Police Station

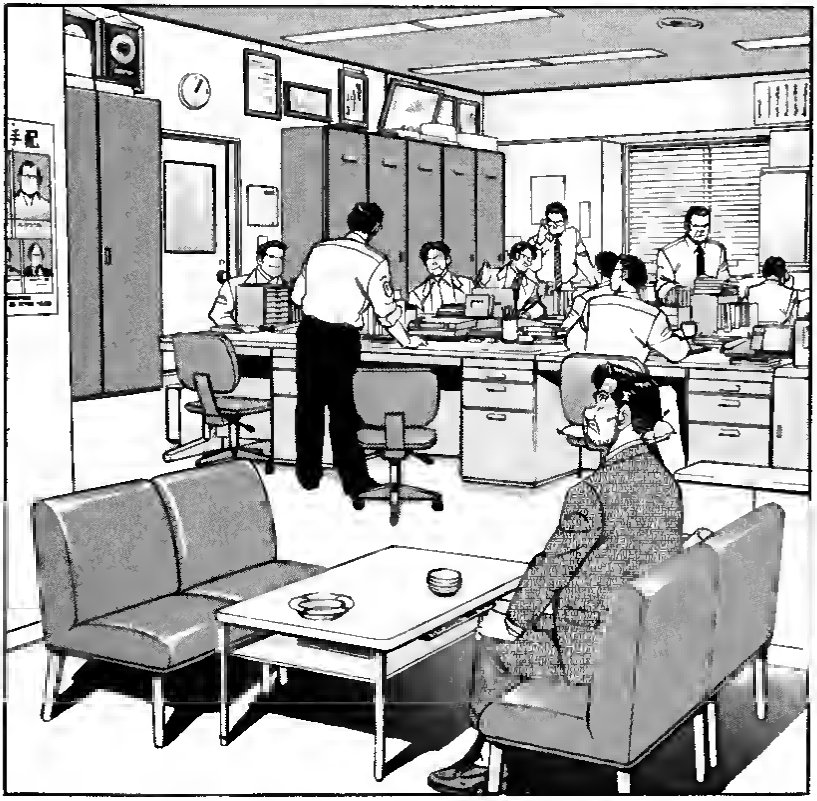
U-UM

THE DETECTIVE IN CHARGE OF THE CASE IS ABSENT AT THE MOMENT.
I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO WAIT FOR A WHILE




12
3
6
9





12
3
6
9

WHAT? I THOUGHT THAT CASE HAD BEEN PUT ON ICE?!
12
3
6
9
HUH?
GOOD AFTER-NOON

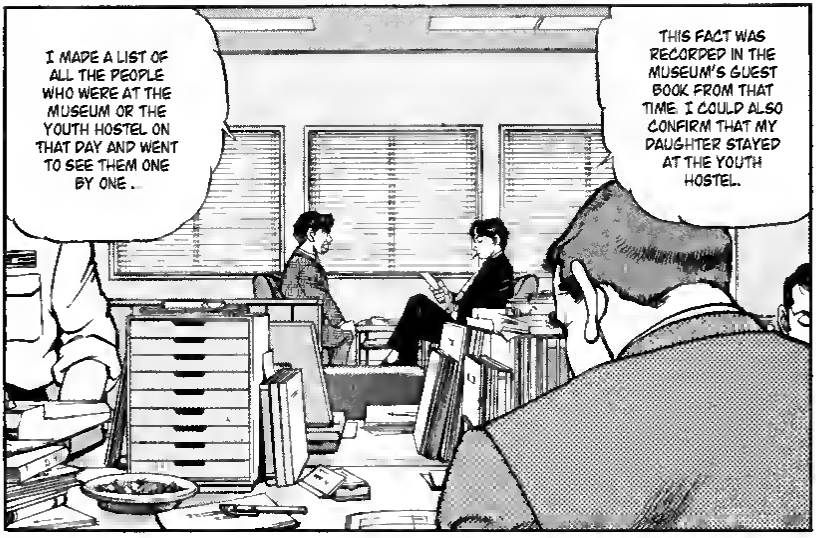
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
..OF THE KILLER.
I FOUND A PHOTO..
A PHOTO OF THE KILLER!!
EXCUSE ME..?

THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN...
...ON THE 16TH OF SEPTEMBER 1984 IN FRONT OF THE PARKING LOT AT THE KOGEN MUSEUM
THE KILLER...? I'M NOT FOLLOWING...
...THAT'S MY DAUGHTER. IT'S SAWAKO, I'M SURE OF IT!!
YOU CAN SEE TWO PERSONS IN THE BACKGROUND. THE YOUNG GIRL ON THE RIGHT... YOU CAN ONLY SEE HER BACK BUT...
Sesame Street

SHE DREW THE KILLER'S CAR BY CHANCE
THIS DRAWING WAS MADE BY MY DAUGHTER AT LAKE OSAWA WHERE SHE STOPPED BY BEFORE GOING TO THE MUSEUM
IS THE SAME COLOR AS THE ONE OF THE CAR THEY ARE WALKING TOWARDS.
THIS BLUE...
LOOK HERE!
THIS UNNATURAL BLUE...
AND THAT'S NOT ALL!
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS MAN WAS SPYING ON MY DAUGHTER AT LAKE OSAWA.

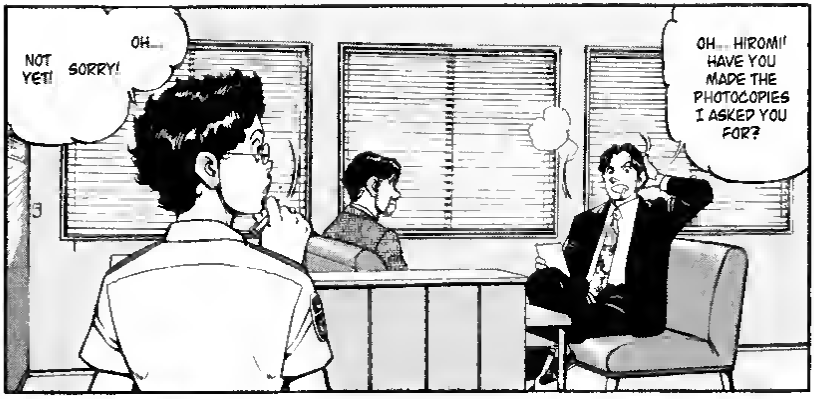
AS YOU CAN SEE ON THIS PHOTO, MY DAUGHTER IS ABOUT TO GET IN THIS MAN'S CAR
THIS CLEARLY PROVES THAT SHE KNEW HIM!
HER CLOTHES... THEY ARE DIFFERENT
I KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT MY DAUGHTER WOULD'VE NEVER GOT IN A STRANGER'S CAR!
WHAT?

DO YOU HAVE PHOTOS OF YOUR DAUGHTER WEARING THESE SAME CLOTHES?
BUT THIS...
IT'S TRUE THAT THESE ARE NOT THE CLOTHES SHE WAS WEARING WHEN SHE DIED.
UM... WELL..
!
ON THE 18TH OF SEPTEMBER, MY DAUGHTER ATTENDED THE TATSUKI UMINO EXHIBITION HELD AT THE KOGEN MUSEUM.
OH, THAT..
HOW DID YOU GET THIS PHOTO?

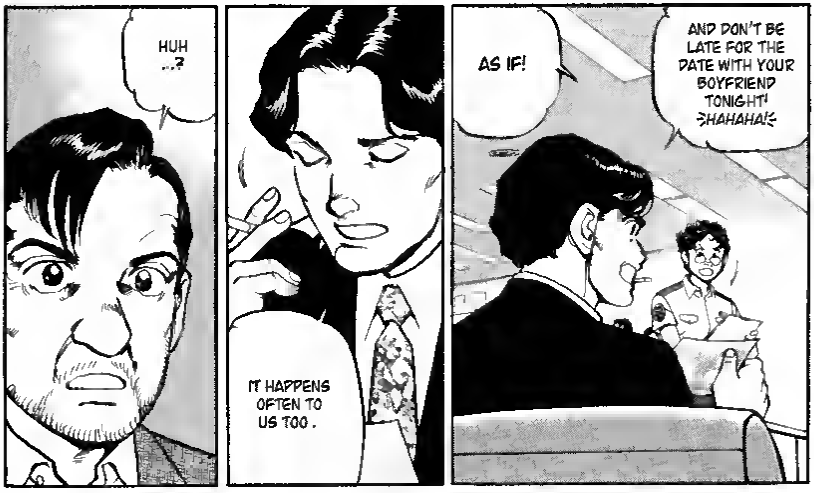

I MADE A LIST OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO WERE AT THE MUSEUM OR THE YOUTH HOSTEL ON THAT DAY AND WENT TO SEE THEM ONE BY ONE.
THIS FACT WAS RECORDED IN THE MUSEUM'S GUEST BOOK FROM THAT TIME. I COULD ALSO CONFIRM THAT MY DAUGHTER STAYED AT THE YOUTH HOSTEL.

I SEE...
ﾅﾙﾎﾄﾞ

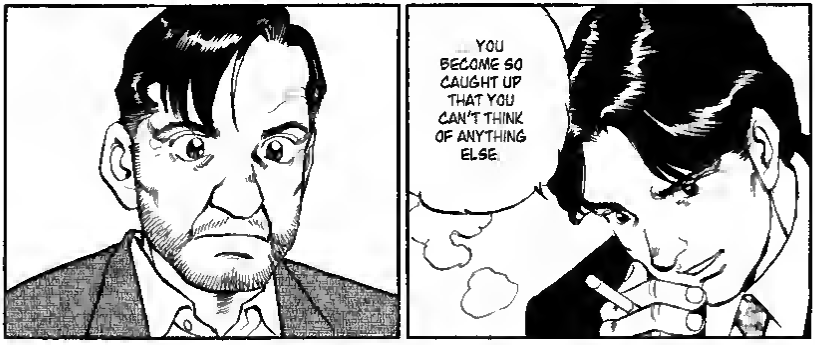
FORTUNATELY, AMONG THEM WAS A WOMAN WHOSE FRIEND TOOK THIS PHOTO, SO I BORROWED IT.

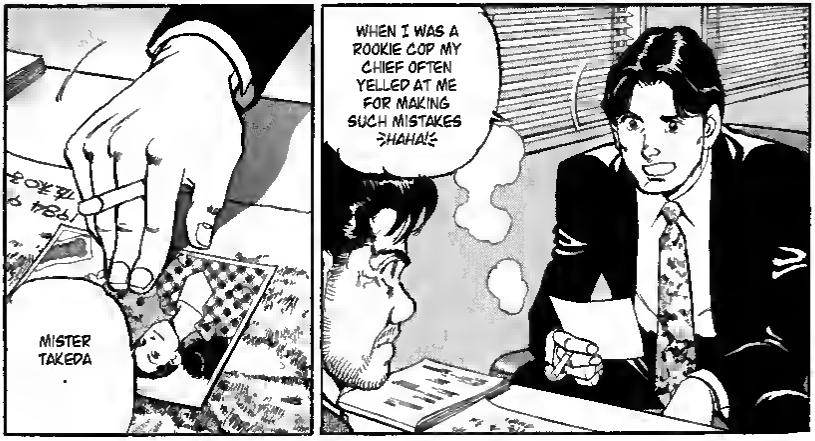

OH...
NOT YET!
SORRY!
OH... HIROMI! HAVE YOU MADE THE PHOTOCOPIES I ASKED YOU FOR?

HONESTLY..!
COME ON. I STILL HAVE A WHOLE REPORT TO TYPE HERE...


HUH ..?
IT HAPPENS OFTEN TO US TOO.
AS IF!
AND DON'T BE LATE FOR THE DATE WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND TONIGHT! HAHAHA!

WHEN YOU LOOK FOR SOMETHING REAL HARD... AS SOON AS YOU STUMBLE ON A SINGLE COINCIDENCE, SIMPLE FACTS THAT TOOK PLACE THE SAME DAY AS THE INCIDENT... A YOUNG GIRL FROM BEHIND WHO LOOKS LIKE THE ONE YOU ARE LOOKING FOR... OFTEN THAT'S ENOUGH TO CONVINCE YOURSELF THAT YOU'VE FOUND SOMETHING...
殺人
放火
殺人
殺人

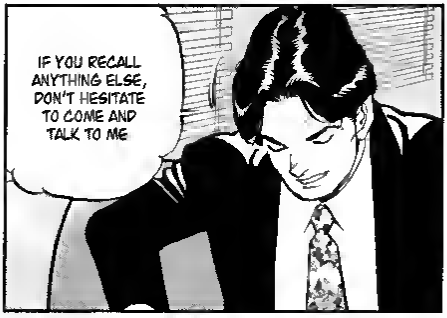

...YOU BECOME SO CAUGHT UP THAT YOU CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE.


MISTER TAKEDA.
WHEN I WAS A ROOKIE COP MY CHIEF OFTEN YELLED AT ME FOR MAKING SUCH MISTAKES ☆HAHA!☆

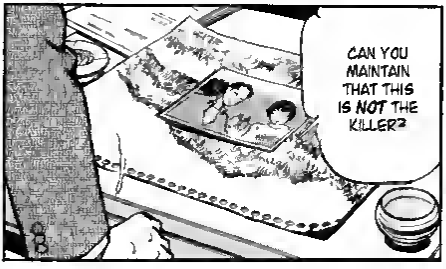
A POLICE INVESTIGATION CONSISTS OF PUTTING FACTS TOGETHER ONE BY ONE.
REAL AND TANGIBLE FACTS...!!
BUT..
BUT..
THE COLOR OF THIS CAR IS VERY UNUSUAL..
IT'S..
IT RESEMBLES THE COLOR OF THE PLASTIC COVERS USED ON CONSTRUC-TION SITES .
WHAT?

WHO WOULD DO CONSTRUCTION IN SUCH A PLACE?!

T-THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SOME CONSTRUCTION ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LAKE AT THAT TIME...


IF YOU RECALL ANYTHING ELSE, DON'T HESITATE TO COME AND TALK TO ME

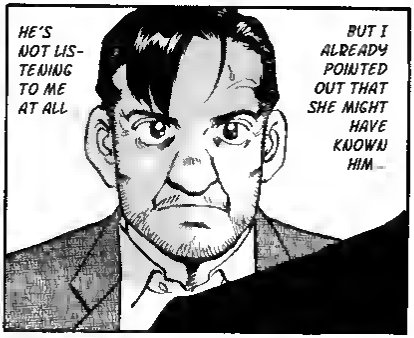
IN ANY CASE, I'M VERY PLEASED THAT YOU'RE HELPING US IN OUR INVESTIGATION.

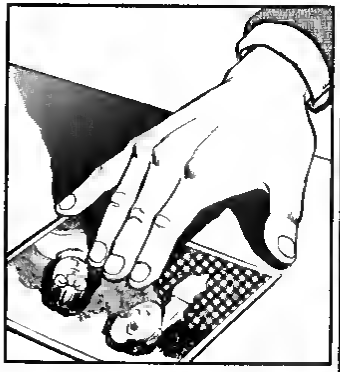

CAN YOU MAINTAIN THAT THIS IS NOT THE KILLER?

FIRST OF ALL, NOTHING PROVES THAT THEY'RE HEADING FOR THE BLUE CAR.
WHAT?
WITH SO LITTLE PROOF
THEY MIGHT WALK PAST IT AND GET IN ANOTHER CAR AT THE FAR END OF THE PARKING LOT.
YOU CAN TELL THAT THE PARKING LOT GOES FURTHER BACK.

...THE NUMBER OF SUSPECTS COULD BECOME ASTRONOMICAL!
EVEN IF HE WAS THE KILLER--WITH ONLY A PHOTO OF HIS BACK IT'S VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO CREATE A COMPOSITE. MOREOVER, IF SHE MET THIS GUY BY ACCIDENT AND GOT IN HIS CAR WITH HIM .

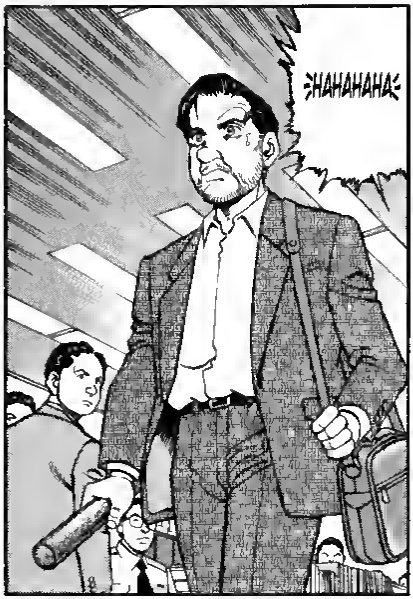
I'M WASTING MY TIME, WHATEVER I SAY...


HE'S NOT LISTENING TO ME AT ALL
BUT I ALREADY POINTED OUT THAT SHE MIGHT HAVE KNOWN HIM...

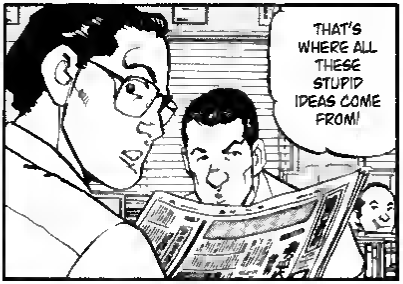


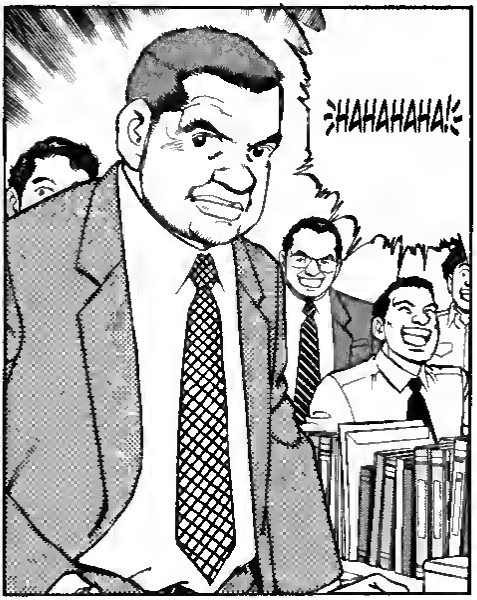
I'M DONE HERE...

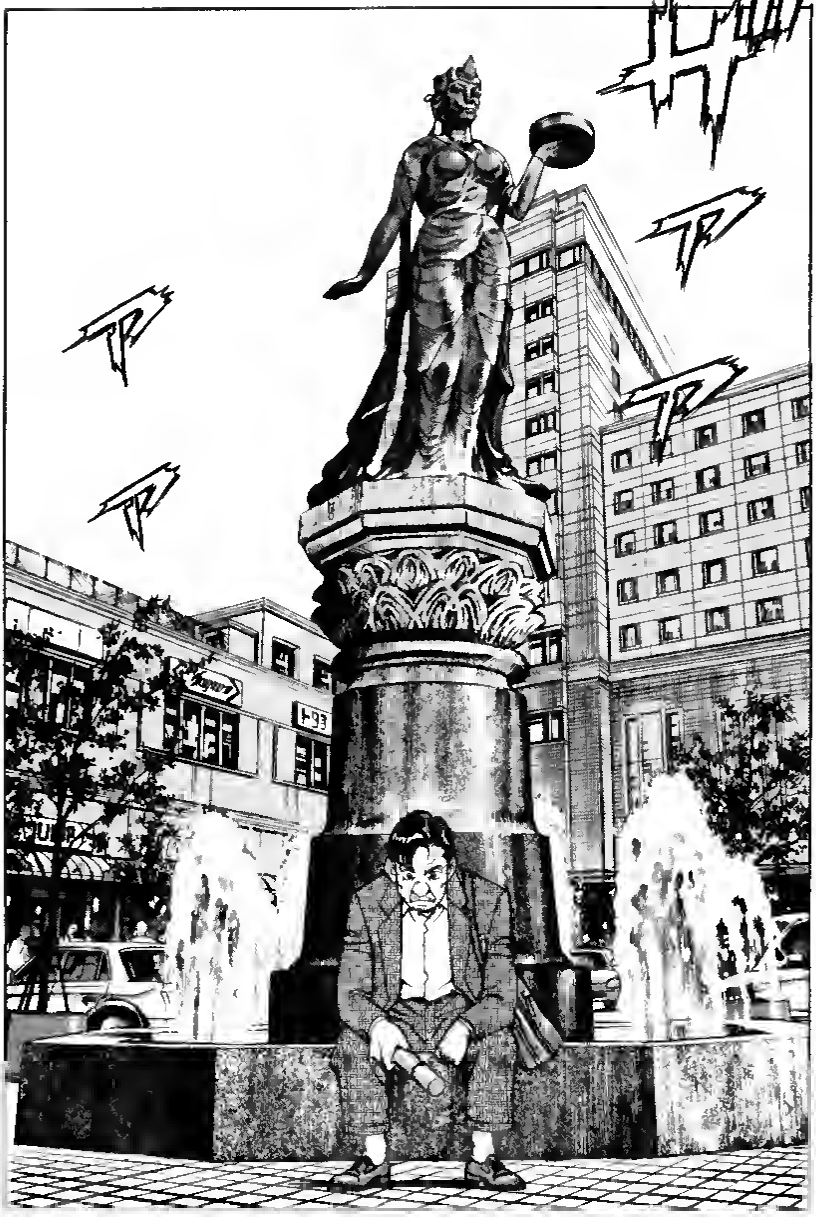
NOTHING
MURAI?
WHAT IS IT?
GOODBYE!


:HAHAHAHA:

THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF THOSE DAMN POLICE TV SHOWS!


THAT'S WHERE ALL THESE STUPID IDEAS COME FROM!


:HAHAHAHA!:

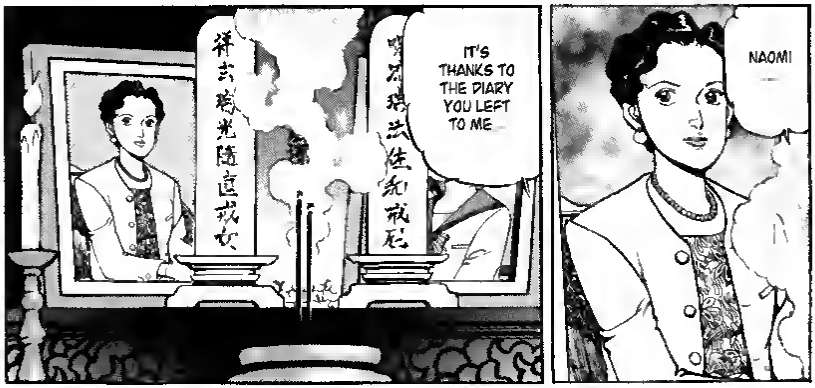


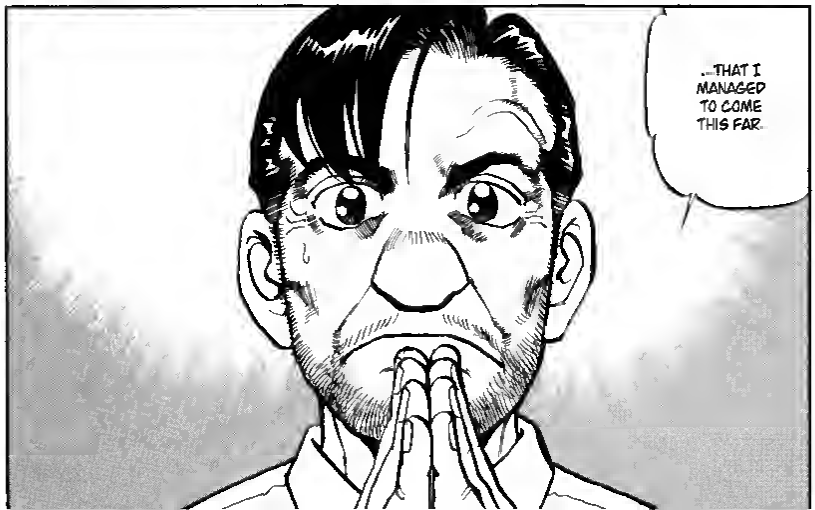
DOES MY THEORY ACTUALLY MAKE ANY SENSE?
MAYBE THAT DETECTIVE IS RIGHT...
IF I WAS HIM WHAT WOULD I DO? THIS IS HOW I HAVE TO THINK...!
SUCH A BLURRY PHOTO...
...AND SO SMALL

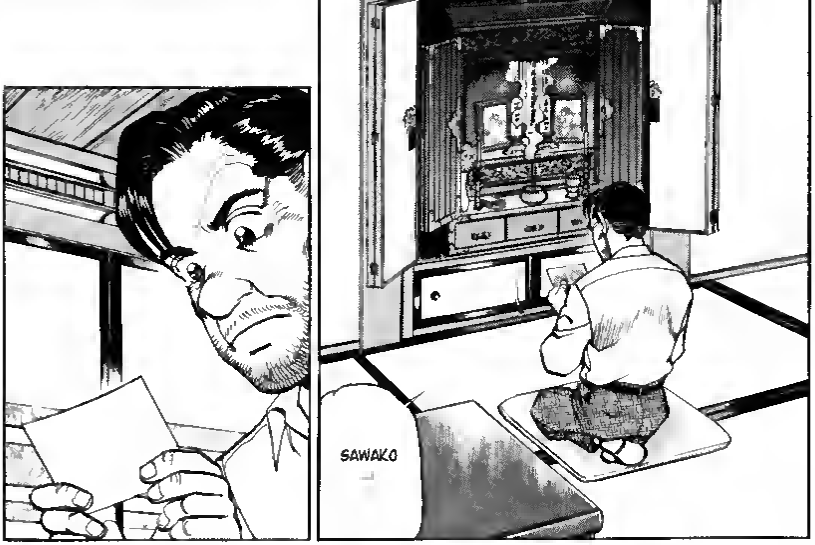
IT'S TRUE THAT I GOT CARRIED AWAY BY MY FEELINGS AND THAT I DID EVERYTHING TO JUSTIFY THEM.
THE ONE WHO IS GOING ASTRAY IS PROBABLY ME...
...IN THIS CASE, IF I SHOW SOME COMMON SENSE...
BUT...
...IF I PROCEED WITH INTELLIGENCE AND LUCIDITY...
IN THIS CASE...

...TO THIS UNFORGIVABLE... CRIMINAL?!
...WILL I GET CLOSER TO THE KILLER?!

生存
Life
Fukumoto Nobuyuki ✖ Kawaguchi Kaiji

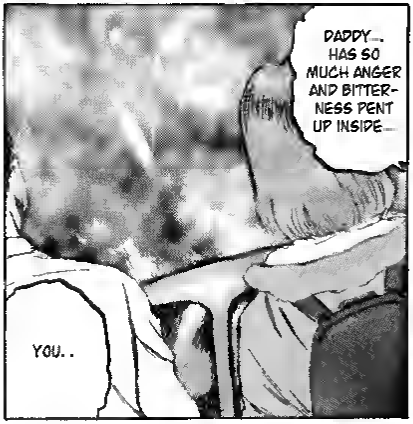

IT'S THANKS TO THE DIARY YOU LEFT TO ME...
NAOMI


...THAT I MANAGED TO COME THIS FAR.


SAWAKO

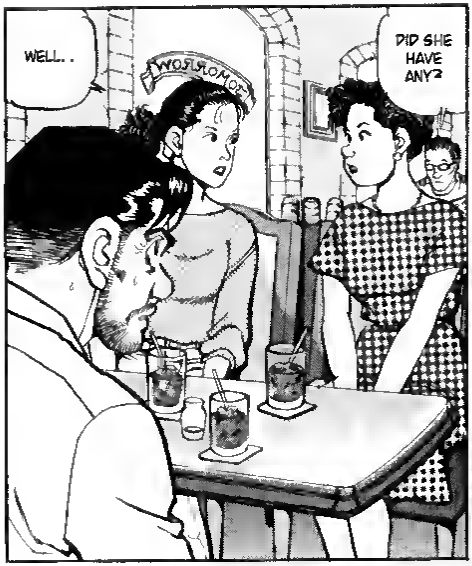
...YOU GUIDED ME TO THIS PHOTO...

YOU WOULD HAVE NEVER GOT IN THE CAR OF A MAN YOU MET THE SAME DAY!

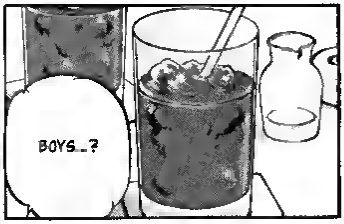

DADDY... HAS SO MUCH ANGER AND BITTER-NESS PENT UP INSIDE...
YOU..

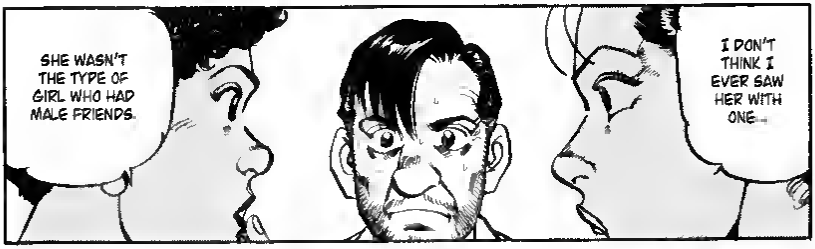
SAWAKO!!
AM I RIGHT ?!
SOON...
JUST BE PATIENT...
SOON I WILL FIND HIM!!

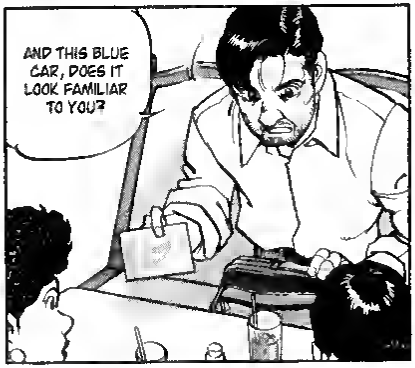
A MAN THAT SHE KNEW
IN THIS CASE I HAVE TO START AGAIN FROM THE BEGINNING!
SAWAKO WAS KILLED BY A MAN THAT SHE KNEW
A MAN DRIVING A BLUE CAR!
14 YEARS AGO... THERE WAS A MAN CLOSE TO HER...


WELL..
DID SHE HAVE ANY?

COFFEE
TOMORROW
FRIENDS OF SAWAKO?


BOYS...?

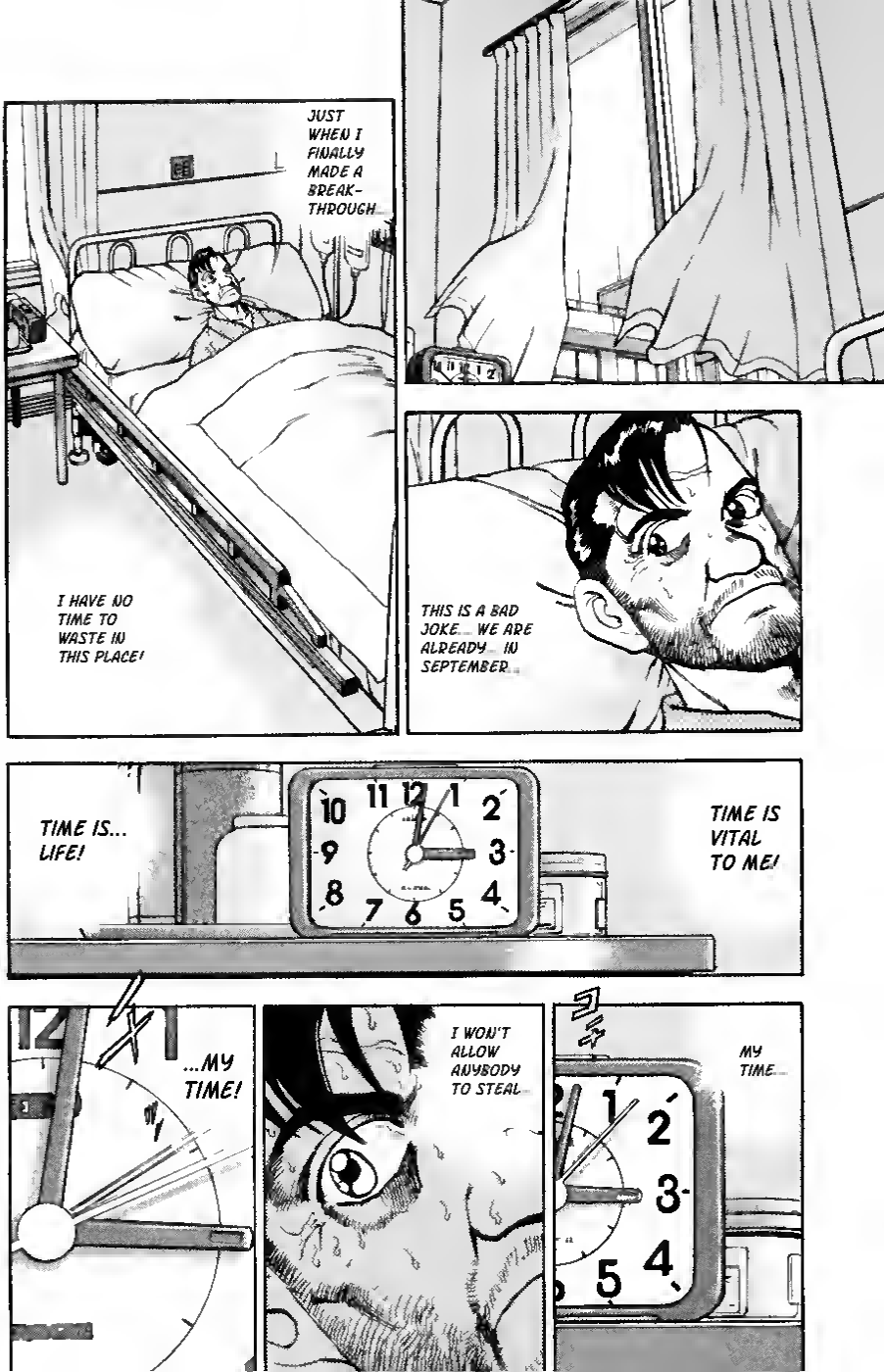

SHE WASN'T THE TYPE OF GIRL WHO HAD MALE FRIENDS.
I DON'T THINK I EVER SAW HER WITH ONE...

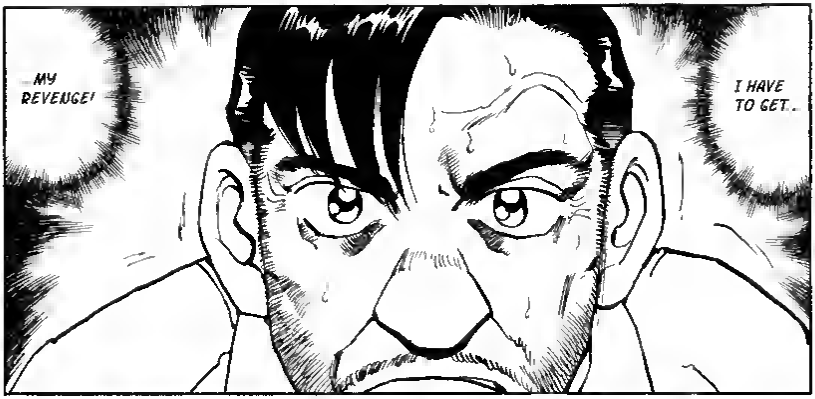

AND THIS BLUE CAR, DOES IT LOOK FAMILIAR TO YOU?

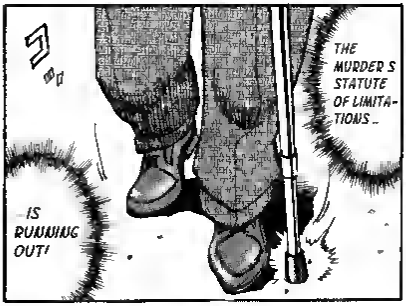
:HUFF:
:HUFF!:
:HUFF:
NO, IT DOESN'T RING ANY BELL...
A BLUE CAR...
...!!
:HUFF:
:HUFF:

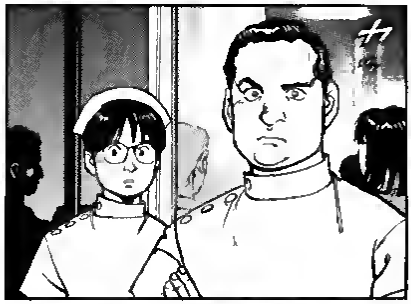
MISTER TAKEDA...
YOU MUSTN'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD...
MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU NEED TO COME TO YOUR CHECKUPS!

. CAN I GET OUT?
I'M THIS CLOSE TO HOSPITALIZING YOU, YOU KNOW?
WHEN
I'LL USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RUN SOME NEW TESTS
YOUR LIVER'S CONDITION HAS WORSENED, SO NOT FOR A WHILE.
...YOUR STAY COULD BE LENGTHENED...
DEPENDING ON THE RESULTS.


JUST WHEN I FINALLY MADE A BREAK-THROUGH...
I HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE IN THIS PLACE!
THIS IS A BAD JOKE... WE ARE ALREADY IN SEPTEMBER...
TIME IS... LIFE!
TIME IS VITAL TO ME!
...MY TIME!
I WON'T ALLOW ANYBODY TO STEAL
MY TIME...


MY REVENGE!
I HAVE TO GET.


THE MURDER'S STATUTE OF LIMITA-TIONS...
IS RUNNING OUT!



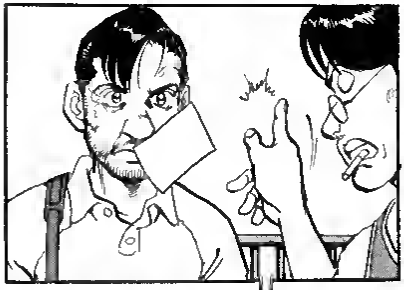
IF THE KILLER NEVER TRAVELED ABROAD...

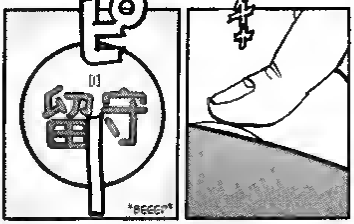
...THAT'S WHEN EVERYTHING CAN BE CHANGED!!
THE STOPPAGE TIME IN A FOOTBALL MATCH... THE TWO OR THREE MINUTES ADDED...
NO... THAT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE NOWADAYS...
AT LEAST I HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT...
THE FINAL WHISTLE HASN'T BEEN BLOWN!!

SHUFFS
SHUFFS
ピー!!
BEEP
I'm sorry to disturb you... This is Detective Murai from N City's Central Police Station in Nagano...

...!!
?!
I was the person who looked at your photograph when you came to the station some time ago...
Um... Well... I did some research on the car...

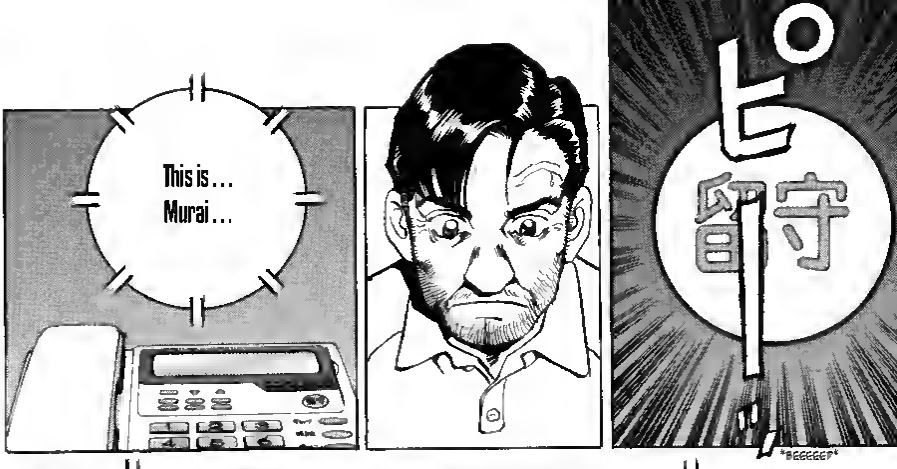
Meaning that it was an imported car or that the car was repainted
I received confirmation from the manufacturer that at the time, this color wasn't being sold in Japan...
If the latter is the case...
...it'll be difficult to use it to clearly identify the killer...
HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND... ANYTHING!!
WHAT THE HELL IS HE TALKING ABOUT?!
AND HE CALLS HIMSELF A DETECTIVE?!

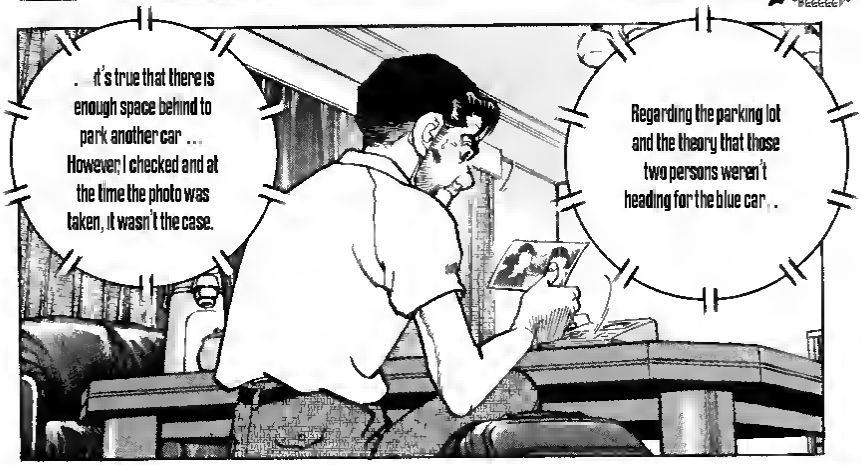


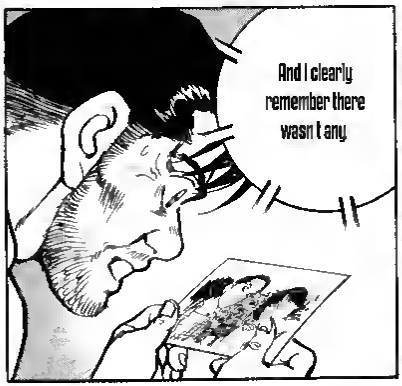


01 ANSWERING MACHINE

... I could confirm that there wasn't any construction in that area 14 years ago

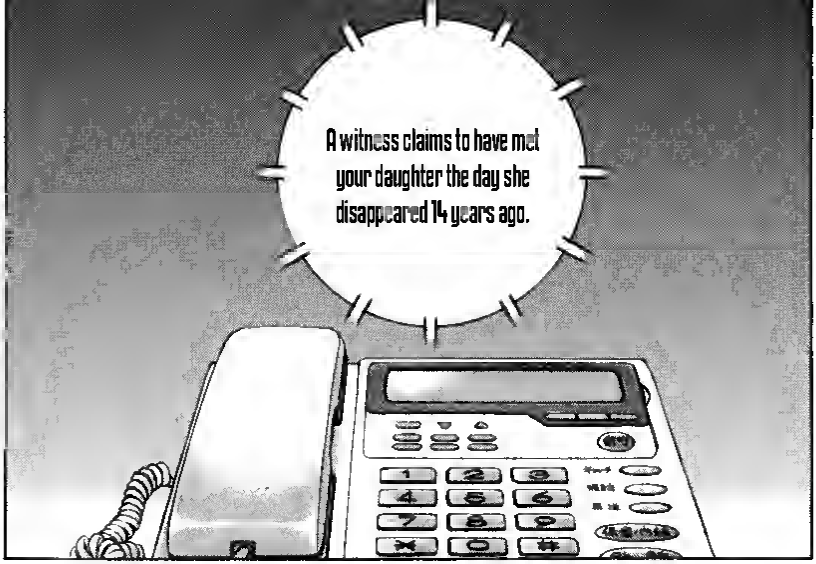

This is…
Murai…
ピ
留守
BEEEEEP

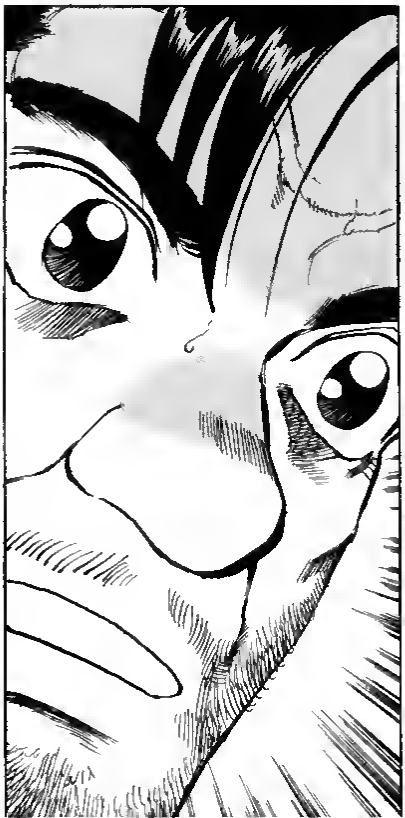

…it's true that there is enough space behind to park another car… However, I checked and at the time the photo was taken, it wasn't the case.
Regarding the parking lot and the theory that those two persons weren't heading for the blue car…

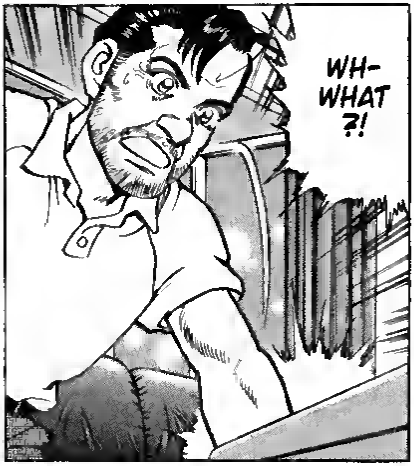

And I clearly remember there wasn't any

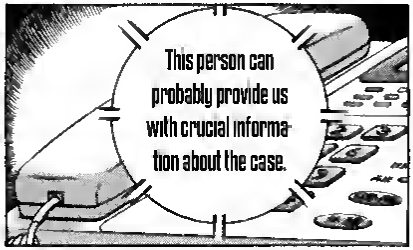
If there had been another car… Even if it'd been hidden behind the blue one, we would have seen its shadow on the photo

Therefore, we can tell with certainty that those two were indeed heading for the blue car
RATTLE
Murai speaking... We received a phone call today...
BEEEP









To be continued in volume 2...